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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
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156 without a
government
budget for
DAYS FY 2009

INSIDE



Ambush

A team of heavily armed gunmen, some traveling in rickshaws, ambushed Sri Lanka's national cricket team Tuesday.

ASIA...Page 16



Tea in Shanghai

I have never been a fan of tea. Something about it just seems off to me. Why not just drink water or go for the harder stuff like coffee?

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Tinian lawmakers disagree on \$4.7M loan with MPLT. **PAGE 3**

Senior citizens volunteer to fight graffiti problem. **PAGE 6**



Rep. Tina Sablan confronts Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho during a session break to ask him why he changed his position on the budget, as Reps. Ralph Torres and Victor Hocog look on. Rep. Stanley Torres is partially hidden.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

ON \$156M BUDGET PLAN FOR FY 2009

House override try fails—again

With only 12 “yes” votes, the 20-member House of Representatives yesterday failed yet again to override Gov. Benigno R. Fitial’s veto of the \$156.76 million fiscal year 2009 budget bill.

See **HOUSE** on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

■ ‘Restrict hiring under continuing resolution’
PAGE 2

HOW THEY VOTED

YES

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, R-Saipan
Vice Speaker Joseph P. DeLeon Guerrero, R-Saipan
Rep. Diego T. Benavente, R-Saipan
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Covenant-Saipan
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, R-Saipan
Rep. Joseph C. Reyes, R-Saipan
Rep. Tina M. Sablan, Ind-Saipan
Rep. Edward T. Salas, R-Saipan
Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, R-Saipan
Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, R-Saipan
Rep. Ralph DLG Torres, R-Saipan
Rep. Ray N. Yumul, R-Saipan

NO

Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho, R-Saipan
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan, Covenant-Tinian
Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, Covenant-Saipan
Rep. Victor B. Hocog, Ind-Rota
Rep. Raymond D. Palacios, Covenant-Saipan
Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, D-Saipan

ABSTAINED

Rep. Stanley T. Torres, R-Saipan

ABSENT

Rep. David M. Apatang, Ind-Saipan

‘Consultant to push rate hike for water, wastewater’

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A consulting firm hired by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is poised to recommend increases in water and wastewater rates, saying that current rates have become a losing proposition to the agency’s Water and Wastewater Division.



Megarr

Speaking before members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, division deputy director Bruce Megarr said that Georgetown Consultants’ recommenda-

See **CUC** on Page 4

Tinian High tops Pacific JROTC competition

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Tinian High School’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps bested 36 others to emerge as this year’s winner in the recently held 13th Brigade Cadet Command academic competition.

The event drew high school JROTC teams from throughout the Pacific region.

The champion group, composed of cadets Patrick Diaz, Alisha Shrestha, Carl Lou Espinosa, and Chelsea Manglona, garnered an outstanding score of 94 percent during the online academic challenge held in January.

Hailed as the second best team was the CNMI’s Marianas High School with a score of 86 percent. Team members included cadets Necita Aldan, Liezel Cristobal, Chris Devino, and Tristan Garcia.

This year marked the second annual competition hosted by the 13th Brigade. Last year, defending champion was Marianas High School JROTC,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winning team from the Tinian High School JROTC poses for the camera after emerging as this year’s champion in the 13th Brigade Cadet Command Academic Competition. From left are cadet Capt. Patrick Diaz, cadet Capt. Alisha Shrestha, cadet SSgt. Chelsea Manglona, and cadet SFC Carl Lou Espinosa.

while second place went to Rota High School, with 84 percent.

The academic competition is open to JROTC cadets from throughout the

Western region. This includes both private and public schools in American Samoa, Guam, Alaska, Hawaii, Washing-

See **TINIAN** on Page 4

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

State Board of Education, Public School System

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Saipan, Tinian, Rota

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FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010

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Local

Bill restricts govt hiring
under continuing resolution

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While the House failed to override the governor's veto of the \$156.76 million budget for fiscal year 2009, it succeeded in passing a bill that will restrict government hiring when a continuing resolution is in effect.

With a 16-1 vote, House Bill 16-212 passed on first and final reading.

Of the 17 members who remained in attendance during the last hour of the House session yesterday, only Rep. Oscar M. Babauta voted "no" on the bill.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and author of H.B. 16-212, said the bill is intended to ensure that no person will be employed to fill a vacant position when a continuing resolution is in effect unless and until the Legislature, after receiving certifications, approves the requested hiring via passage of a joint resolution.

House members who voted to override the governor's budget veto criticized the Fitial admin-

istration for allowing hundreds of government employees to be hired even as it touts belt-tightening measures.

Currently, additional employees may only be hired to fill vacant positions upon certification that the hiring is necessary and adequate funds exist to support the employment.

But the bill said public interest requires legislative approval of the filling of vacant positions during a period of continuing appropriation, and such approval is consistent with the balanced bud-

get requirements of the Commonwealth Constitution.

Yumul said he will now wait for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's proposed budget for FY 2010.

"On or before April 1st, the governor must submit a proposed annual budget. By July 1st, the Legislature sets limits on expenditures by passing a House Concurrent Resolution. By September 1st, the Legislature completes action by introducing and passing a budget bill setting the annual appropriation," he said.

'Three bills on QC program
paint a picture of instability'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce says the introduction of three bills that would substantially impact the qualifying certificate program in differing ways does not paint a picture of regulatory stability for potential or existing investors.

The Chamber, in comments on House Bill 16-210, which restructures the QC program by repealing and reenacting the Investment Incentive Act, said it generally favors legislation that seeks to stimulate any aspect of the local economy.

"We are concerned, however, that there are three pending bills

that would substantially impact the qualifying certificate program in differing ways, which were introduced within an approximately three-month span," Chamber president Jim Arenovski said in a Feb. 26 letter to House Commerce and Tourism Committee chair Rep. Joseph C. Reyes.

The Chamber, the largest business group in the CNMI, previously commented on H.B. 16-172 and H.B. 16-177, which would supplant or impose a temporary moratorium on the QC program, respectively.

Arenovski said legal and regulatory stability is an important consideration for any business.

See THREE on Page 4

Woman in marriage
fraud gets probation

The Superior Court has imposed a probation sentence on a woman found engaging in marriage fraud.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Lorna De Luna, also known as Lorna De Luna Camacho, to one year in prison, all suspended, for marriage fraud. Wiseman placed De Luna on supervised probation for one year.

The judge ordered De Luna to pay past permit and immigration fees for the years 2007-2008, totaling \$275.

Wiseman said the defendant must pay these fees before departing the CNMI or attempting to depart the Commonwealth.

De Luna, a Filipino, consented to deportation at her expense and agreed to depart the CNMI within 21 days of the date of the order.

The defendant is required to help law enforcement officers in any ongoing investigations or testify truthfully during the

prosecution of co-defendants.

Wiseman ordered De Luna to pay a \$50 fine and \$100 court assessment fee.

The Attorney General's Office charged De Luna with marriage fraud and obstructing justice.

The AGO alleged that on Oct. 31, 2007, he and Bonifacio M. Camacho knowingly entered into a marriage for the sole purpose of obtaining a labor and immigration benefit.

On Aug. 1, 2008, De Luna and Nicolas C. Figuerres Jr. allegedly tampered with a witness.

De Luna and counsel, Richard Pierce, signed a plea agreement with the government. She pleaded guilty to marriage fraud.

In exchange, the government moved to dismiss the obstruction of justice charge. The court granted the motion. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



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For more information, please call Valerie B. Camacho at 670-322-3311 extension 2003 or Minako Kayagaki at extension 2009.



EPA urged to hold 'urgent' probe on oil storage issue

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
monethdeposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The leader of the indigenous Taotao Tano Group, Gregorio Cruz Jr., wants the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to immediately conduct a probe on the oil storage issue in the CNMI following disclosure by the Fitial administration of the imminent threat of an oil spill from a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. used oil storage tank.

Cruz, in a letter to EPA's Peter Reich yesterday, said this issue caused the extended declaration of an emergency for the utilities agency—a move that he described as a "stall tactic" by the Executive Branch.

"The acting governor has declared an extended emergency through an executive order on an oil storage tank container, Tank 104, located less than a 200 ft. from the coastal shoreline. I would like to point out that not only is this emergency declaration a stall tactic for our Executive Branch to continue controlling our public utilities [but this] threat has been ignored for many years," Cruz's letter to EPA stated.

He said this same concern, when raised by the group about a year ago, was downplayed by the Division of Environmental Quality's James Callier.

"But today, it poses a serious environmental threat based on

the EO. We are urgently requesting your division to immediately investigate this serious threat for we had reported this matter to both EPA and U.S. Coast Guard almost a year ago," Cruz said.

Cruz mentioned that the problem would impact coastal waters and marine life on the island.

Saipan Tribune, in an article published on July 4, 2008, first disclosed that an oil storage tank at the CUC's power plant in Puerto Rico, Tank 104, is on the brink of a major spill that could pollute Saipan's lagoon.

Tank 104 is a 300,000 gallon storage unit for used oil at the CUC plant.

It was the same time when Cruz filed a citizen's complaint over the tank with DEQ.

In addition to problems with the tank, CUC has a host of leaking waste oil drums and failed to address any of its storage issues despite a 2006 order by the EPA threatening thousands of dollars in daily fines unless they are resolved.

E.O. 2009-02, which acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez signed on March 1, stated that "CUC has determined that its Tank 104 used oil facility is structurally unsound and must be emptied of its used oil in advance of severe weather, particularly a serious typhoon, to avoid any potential harm to the Commonwealth's waters, including the lagoon."

CITING 'UNREALISTIC, VERY RESTRICTIVE' LANGUAGE

Tinian lawmakers disagree on \$4.7M loan with MPLT

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, Sen. Joseph Mendiola, yesterday disclosed that the group disagrees with the language of the \$4.7 million loan agreement between the Tinian municipality and the Marianas Public Land Trust, describing some provisions as "very restricted" and "unrealistically attainable."

Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas had proposed the loan agreement late last year. It was initially approved by the MPLT board of trustees.

However, Mendiola said, upon examining the agreement it was cited that the municipality will automatically be in default if there's any outstanding payables by the mayor's office.

"It would be foolish to enter into an agreement with such kind of provision because... even at present, the municipality is already in default because of outstanding obligations to the Retirement Fund," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

As of Dec. 31 last year,

the Tinian municipality had incurred over \$1 million obligation to the Fund.

The delegation chairman, however, said if certain provisions of the loan agreement are revised, the group might approve the transaction. It is the task of the delegation to allocate money, through legislation, for the repayment of the loan.

"Until MPLT is unwilling to revise the language of the agreement which we deem very restrictive... I don't think this loan would push through," he said.

Mendiola also wants the loan agreement to be clear about the expenditure authority.

He said a meeting with MPLT in January had disclosed that the agreement was "approved in concept" by the trustees but it needs the delegation's action on the repayment of the loan, which eyes future casino revenues and poker fees appropriated for the municipality.

"This is a long and serious commitment that needs to be decided and consulted with the people of Tinian because we're

committing the future of Tinian here. What if we encounter major problems in our casino revenues in the future and what if these poker fees are no longer available for appropriation? What will happen?" the chairman asked.



Mendiola

Saipan Tribune learned that the \$4.7 million loan agreement is payable in 20 years and is intended to be used for the following municipality obligations:

■ Retroactive salary increases of employees since the 7th Legislature;

■ The municipality's outstanding obligation to the 60th WWII anniversary celebration; and

■ Payment for the U.S. Geological Services as ordered by the court.

Mendiola said that approximately \$500,000 is planned to pay for the retroactive wages of personnel, which originally cost the municipality more than \$1 million in obligation.

"We already paid the half [\$500,000] in the past and the amount is just the balance of that obligation," Mendiola said.

He estimated that over \$150,000 is planned to pay for

the outstanding debt during the 60th WWII celebration on Tinian while some \$1.2 million will pay for its obligation to the USGS as stipulated by a court order.

Mendiola said these amounts exclude the interest in the principal obligations.

"If we go into this type of commitment for the municipality, we don't want to obligate something that is unrealistically attainable," he added.

Tinian Mayor Jose San Nicolas told *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that he's counting on the loan agreement as he plans to use it for more revenue-generating projects.

"Our garment factories are gone. Our tourism industry is declining. We need to look at other projects that will generate income for the municipality... and that's what I am doing as the elected mayor," he told *Saipan Tribune*, citing that a portion of the loan will be used in developing the farmers' market, slaughter house, and the production of oysters and abalone.

San Nicolas has just arrived from a weeklong training in central Philippines where he experienced the actual process of raising abalone from the larvae stage to harvest.

"The product can be sold around the world...and who knows Tinian can export it too someday?" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

San Nicolas said he is "still waiting" for the final confirmation of the \$4.7 million from MPLT.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

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PUBLIC NOTICE

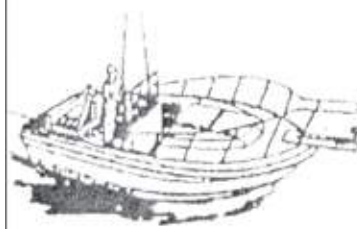
Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 09 2nd General Membership on Friday March 6, 2009 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort and Spa at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Welcome and recognition of new appointed members
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY'09 1st Meeting Minutes (12/19/08)
- V. Reports
 - a. OVR Director
 - b. SRC Chair
- VI. Old Business
 - a. FY 2010 State Plan Updates and Schedule of Public Forums for Saipan, Tinian, & Rota
 - b. Appointments/re-appointments of Committee Chairpersons
 - c. SRC On-Line Training Modules
 - d. Pending Vacancy Appointments
- VII. New Business
 - a. Review and Adoption of Policies for VR services
 - b. OVR/IL Share of Stimulus Package: Recovery Guidelines/Requirements & Accountability of the DSU/Stakeholders
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Announcements
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).



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THREE

From Page 2

“The introduction of three disparate bills concerning the investment incentive program, along with a number of bills that would...substantially impact

the Commonwealth’s tax structure and business fee structure, does not paint a picture of stability for potential or existing investors,” he said.

The Chamber president reiterated the group’s support for the establishment of a workgroup as proposed by House Bill 16-177 to bring together represen-

tatives of the public and private sectors to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the QC program, as well as to formulate a plan for the future of the program.

“In this manner, one unified and comprehensive recommendation can be placed before the Legislature for consideration,” said Arenovski.

But as noted in the Chamber’s comment on H.B. 16-177 in December, it does not believe a temporary moratorium on the issuance, extension, renewal and modification of qualifying certificates is necessary during the time that such a group would engage in its work. “We urge you and the authors of

other legislation that would impact the Qualifying Certificate program to carefully consider this recommendation,” Arenovski told Reyes.

The program grants tax incentives to investors to put up new investments in the CNMI or assist existing investors to expand their operations.

TINIAN

From Page 1

ton, Nevada, California, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

Saipan Tribune learned that one of the schools that Tinian and Marianas high schools bested was Punahou High School in Hawaii, one of the most exclusive prep schools in the nation and alma mater of the current president.

According to Lt. Col. Bob Gay,

CNMI Director of Army Instruction, the competition creates tremendous opportunities for cadets by demonstrating their academic abilities.

“This fast-paced rigorous competition tests cadets in a myriad of ways. The cadets must answer 50 questions in short order that range from cadet knowledge, leadership, science, history, and citizenship to current world and national events, and SAT and ACT type of questions,” he said.

He disclosed that the CNMI cadets

from Saipan Southern High, Marianas and Tinian high schools JROTC are currently competing in a National Army-Wide Cadet Competition in both leadership and academic disciplines.

“This is also an online competition. These three schools advanced to the second round of the testing. If they do well in this phase they may have the opportunity to earn a trip to the mainland and further compete at the National Cadet Command level,” he said. There are currently 1,645 Army

JROTC programs worldwide, comprising 280,000 cadets and 4,000 Army instructors.

Gay said he is enthusiastic about the competition, the achievements, and the energy of the cadets’ involved in this exercise.

“The cadets are competing to win and learning at the same time. This is a big achievement, besting both public and private schools from throughout the entire Western Region. Parents, cadets, students, teachers, educators,

and JROTC cadre deserve a great deal of credit for the performance of their high school student cadets. This did not happen in a vacuum and all education stakeholders deserve credit for the dedication they display to their students on a daily basis,” he added.

The CNMI JROTC Program hosts its own academic competitions throughout the year. The next one will be in the upcoming JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (Spring Camp) later this month.

CUC

From Page 1

tion couldn’t come at a better time, after the Water and Wastewater Division accumulated a shortfall of \$3.6 million in Fiscal Year 2008.

Megarr disclosed that his division amassed the shortfall after expenditures of \$9.6 million far exceeded revenue of \$9.9 million in the last fiscal year.

“It’s like bringing in three boxes while spending four boxes,” he said.

Megarr also pointed out that the current wastewater rate was set way back in 1987, while the water scale was established in 1995.

Megarr said Georgetown Consultants is expected to propose rates that will balance both the islands’ economic condition and CUC’s needs.

“We need to put the revenue side

of the fiscal equation into the hands of a group that is independent and reflects the well-being of the island as a whole,” said Megarr, adding that the consulting firm will also use enterprise accounting methods to separate the division’s revenue and expenses.

Stipulated orders

The federal court recently enforced an agreement between the CNMI government and the U.S. Environment Protection Agency based on the requirements set forth in the Clean Air Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. The stipulated order provides a roadmap for providing improved water and sewer service to the CNMI.

The initial estimate for the first year of compliance calls for CUC to receive \$3.2 million, broken down as follows:

- \$2.087 million for management and operation;

- \$50,000 for master plan scoping; and
- \$1.125 million for and short-term infrastructure.

The marginal cost of compliance per area of focus under the management and operation, meanwhile, includes:

- \$200,000 for management structure;
- \$40,000 for organizational structure of CUC;
- \$15,000 for procurement procedure and training;
- \$561,000 for waste water maintenance and operation;
- \$1.07 million for water maintenance and operation;
- \$100,000 for drinking water sampling and monitoring; and
- \$100,000 for an interim financial management.

Megarr cited three main areas of focus under the stipulated order. These include management operation, which

he said has seven deliverable groups; drinking and wastewater planning with four deliverable groups; and short-term infrastructure with six projects.

Of these six projects, Megarr said three are already done, while two are on their way to completion, with one more to go.

Cost of noncompliance

Megarr said that CUC faces serious consequences if federal codes and standards are not met, as stipulated in the order.

“This may result in contempt charges and receivership, fines, and penalties associated with not meeting the deliverables,” he said.

He emphasized the importance of complying with the standards, saying that “CUC has been repeatedly cited as unable to respond effectively and in a timely fashion to fiscal and operational challenges.”

Complying with the standards “would mean better quality service for our customers and improved public health, and that’s the ultimate goal. It would also provide healthier environment and more stable and predictable operations.”

Although there are indications of a possible rate hike for water and wastewater because CUC’s existing rates do not meet current operational needs, Megarr is reluctant to admit that a higher rate is in the offing.

“That’s why we hired a very capable group of consultants to research our needs, balancing that with the economic realities of the CNMI,” he said.

He cited two challenges in the possible rate hike for water and wastewater.

“Nobody likes increased costs...and an expedited procurement regime,” he said, adding that CUC would do its best to minimize impact and come up with a fair cost for customers.

HOUSE

From Page 1

The House needed at least 14 votes to override the governor’s veto action on House Bill 16-213. The government operates under continuing resolution in the absence of an FY 2009 budget.

With the defeat of the override, House members—during a later vote of 16-1—passed H.B. 16-212, which bans hiring to fill vacant positions when a continuing resolution is in effect unless the Legislature approves the request.

There was no discussion of the budget bill before the voting.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres, R-Saipan, who abstained, explained his decision, saying: “I was not ready to vote yet because I just got in when they had a roll call. I would have voted yes to the override.” Torres came in 30 minutes into the House session yesterday afternoon.

One member was absent, Rep. David M. Apatang, Ind-Saipan.

Why?

After the voting, Rep. Tina Sablan asked the House members to share their views on voting “no” to the override, particularly those who originally voted on the budget bill.

“Those who voted no to the override...You owe it to the people to explain why,” she said during the session.

She said she’s very disappointed about the outcome of the voting. “And even more disappointed that the members who had originally voted for the budget, and then changed their minds in order to vote against the override,

refused to explain why on the record,” she said.

Sablan said she was not only asking for herself.

“All the people of the Commonwealth deserve to know where their elected representatives stand on any issue, but especially on one that involves our single most important constitutional duty as legislators—and that is passing a budget. The members who voted against the veto override today essentially cast their vote in favor of uncontrolled deficit spending under a continuing resolution. Shouldn’t they at least explain why? And if they won’t answer the questions of their colleagues on the floor, they should at least answer the questions of their constituents,” she later told *Saipan Tribune*.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said Sablan has the right to ask members to share their views, but members have the choice whether to reply or be silent about it.

Of the six who voted “no,” only Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, who did not vote on the budget bill, reacted. Babauta recommended that the House “move on” to other more pressing concerns.

Sablan, in response, said there’s nothing on the agenda that’s more important than passing a budget.

During a session break, Sablan approached Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho at his seat in the House chamber to ask why he changed his position on the budget, and a brief exchange of words ensued. Camacho refused media interviews.

‘The right thing’

Sablan’s disappointment over the failure to override the governor’s budget

veto was shared by her colleagues.

“I’m disappointed that it failed, but I know I did the right thing,” said Rep. Ralph DLG Torres.

The proposed budget is \$156.76 million, which includes \$148 million in projected local revenue collections.

It took the House four sessions since the governor’s veto action on the budget to act on it. It deferred action on the budget veto thrice, the last one on Feb. 25.

The Senate earlier overrode the governor’s veto.

Yumul, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he had expected a last minute change of mind to support the override of the governor’s veto of HB-16-213.

“I had hoped that the extra time allotted to the members would have allowed them to talk to their constituents and also to understand the issues and concerns of having no controls that a budget would provide and then support the override,” he said.

Yumul said he voted “yes” to the override because he wanted a spending plan in place that will allow the government to operate within its means because of the Finance secretary’s lowered revenue collection projection.

A dead issue?

The speaker said the possibility of having another override vote on the governor’s budget veto remains. He said they have until April to act on the budget.

“There’s always that possibility,” he added.

Sablan also hopes the House will reconsider the veto override.

But Rep. Victor Hocog said the fate of the override had already

been known.

“The override is really dead. It’s been decided in today’s session...The five that voted no eventually killed the bill,” he said.

He said he voted “no” after receiving communication from the Office of the Governor that overriding the budget veto will result in the furlough of contractual workers, especially Rota and Tinian employees, who he said will be the first ones to go.

“Whether that notice to the Legislature will materialize if we override the budget, I don’t want to take that risk that will impede the livelihood of these families,” Hocog told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hocog said he would love to see a budget but not at the expense of jobs. “It’s a difficult decision for me to make,” he said.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta and Rep. Raymond D. Palacios echoed Hocog’s concern about the loss of jobs of public servants.

“The administration feels that austerity measures should be in place so they can continue to carry these public employees through the end of fiscal year. It’s very important because it will allow the administration to maneuver available resources; when one lacks funding, funds can be reprogrammed to supplement the programs of that particular department. Of course, it does work. In the 15th Legislature when I was speaker, we implemented austerity measures. Nobody was furloughed. Hopefully, the Ways and Means Committee will bring the austerity bill to the Chamber for action,” Babauta said.

He said the possibility of voting on an override again is impossible.

“The failure of the House to act on the first budget was reflected on this. This is their second attempt to override it,” said Babauta.

‘Adopt cost-cutting legislation’

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said because of the concerns articulated by the governor’s budget veto message, the administration appreciates the decision finally reached by the House of Representatives.

“The administration, however, still urges the Legislature to adopt significant cost-cutting legislation, including austerity measures, to deal with our current financial challenges,” Reyes said.

The governor vetoed the proposed FY 2009 budget because of a lack of austerity measures in the bill.

An administration-sponsored bill on austerity measures was subsequently introduced by Hocog.

House Bill 16-223 reinstates austerity Fridays/unpaid holidays, cuts employer contribution to the Retirement Fund from 18 percent to 11 percent, and grants full reprogramming power to all expenditure authorities. Under the bill, top officials including the governor, lieutenant governor, lawmakers, justices, and judges are encouraged to waive 10 percent of their salaries.

“I hope the committee will clear it,” Hocog said yesterday.

In December, Fitial vetoed the Legislature’s first budget of \$165 million, citing an \$8 million drop in projected local revenue. The latest budget reduced the spending level by \$8 million but did not include austerity measures like unpaid holidays.

Scholarship for Trades Institute students passes House

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation yesterday passed a bill allowing students of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute to apply for Higher Education Financial Assistance scholarship.

"I am very proud and happy that the Legislature sees our importance. It's a major step forward to develop indigenous manpower. Now the community recognizes the need for a trade institute," NMTI founder Anthony Pellegrino said in an interview.

Pellegrino and NMTI students attended the session of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation at the House Chamber yesterday morning.

All of the 16 Saipan legislative delegation members who were present at the session voted "yes" on the motion to adopt House Local Bill 16-22, which now goes to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

H.L.B. 16-22, introduced by Reps. Justo Quitugua, Raymond D. Palacios and David M. Apatang, authorizes SHEFA scholarship for students who have not obtained a high school

diploma or its equivalent, yet are simultaneously enrolled in a high school or a high school equivalency program and who are enrolled in a trade institution such as the Northern Marianas Trade Institute.

"I'm glad we passed the bill," said Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Sen. Pete P. Reyes noted the success of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute in Lower Base, saying students have been successfully placed on the job market.

"I'm glad we're able to assist in allowing students to apply for financial assistance," he said.

SHEFA and CNMI Scholarship are available for those who obtained a high school diploma or high school equivalent diploma, but not for those who have yet to complete their high school education.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Northern Marianas Trades Institute founder Anthony Pellegrino and students watch yesterday's session of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation which passed a local bill allowing NMTI students to apply for Higher Education Financial Assistance, or SHEFA, scholarship.

Govendo lessens Wabol's bail but imposes provisos

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said yesterday that it is a community concern when a police officer involved in a domestic violence is also accused of threatening the victim with his service firearm.

During a bail modification hearing in the domestic violence case against Police Officer 1 John K. Wabol Jr., Govendo said this is not the first time a police officer is taken to court on charges of domestic violence involving a partner.

However, when a threat using a service firearm is involved, this "causes a concern to the community," he said.

The judge reminded police officers that they are sworn to defend innocent people who face threats.

Govendo granted Wabol's request to modify the \$10,000 cash bail for his temporary liberty.

Govendo set a \$500 cash bail and \$4,500 unsecured bond. He allowed Wabol to be released to

his father, Fire Chief Juan Wabol Sr., as third party custodian.

Wabol was ordered to surrender his passport, not leave the CNMI without court permission, and not contact the victim and her children.

"I assume he already surrendered his firearms," the judge said.

The 22-year-old Wabol was arrested for allegedly beating up his common-law wife and threatening to shoot her with his service gun outside their house in Dandan Thursday afternoon.

Wabol Jr. was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

When police officers responded to the scene, the wife was reportedly crying and shaking for fear. She had red marks on her neck.

The victim told police it was not the first time that Wabol physically abused her, but that Thursday's was the worst yet. *(Ferdie dela Torre)*


Broadcast License Assignment

On February 13, 2009 an application was filed with the FCC to assign the license of stations KCNM(AM), 1080 KHz, Saipan, KCNM-FM, 101.1 MHz, Garapan-Saipan and KZMI(FM), 103.9 MHz, Garapan-Saipan from Inter-Island Communications, Inc to Choice Broadcasting Company, LLC.

The officers, directors and owners of the assignor are Edward H. Poppe, Frances W. Poppe, Edward H. Poppe III, Michelle Aguon, Matthew J. Poppe and Cheryl Kelly.

The managers and members of the assignee are Richard C. Yu, Jeselyn T. Yu and Robert F. Kelley, Jr.

A copy of the application, amendments and related materials are on file for public inspection at Inter-Island Communications Inc. Sablan Bldg San Jose Saipan.




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THE CURRENT PACIFIC POKER JACKPOT:

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Budweiser presents

**2009 TINIAN DYNASTY INVITATIONAL:
INTER-HOTEL BASKETBALL LEAGUE**

6:30pm - SAIPAN WORLD RESORT vs. HYATT REGENCY
8:30pm - TINIAN DYNASTY HOTEL vs. AQUA RESORT CLUB
Monday March 9th @ the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium, Tinian

For further information, please call
VIP Services: (670) 328-2285

Senior citizens volunteer to fight graffiti problem

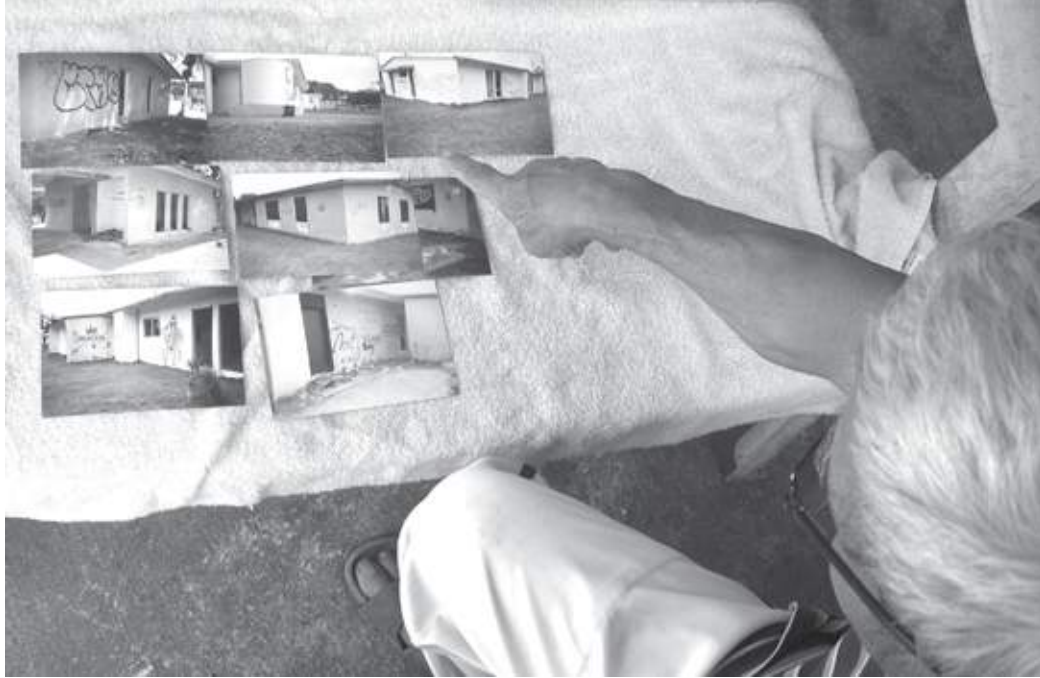
By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A group of senior citizens yesterday vowed to spearhead the campaign against Saipan's "serious" graffiti problem, which according to them is not doing good to the tourism industry.

Teddy Guiao, 76, told *Saipan Tribune* that he and at least six other colleagues at the Aging Center will contribute their time to clean government buildings being vandalized by erring youths.

Guiao and other *man'amko* expressed disappointment after finding that the wall in front of the Aging Center in China Town was also recently spray-painted.

"These children who are doing these vandalisms have no respect! They even spray-painted the Man'amko Cen-



Teddy Guiao, 76, points to pictures of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s housing units in Lower Miha that have been riddled with graffiti and trash.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

2 guards allegedly caught fishing at Managaha

Two on-duty security guards assigned to Managaha Island were arrested for allegedly fishing at the Managaha dock Monday afternoon.

Robert Santos, 46, and Sarapio M. Dellipou, 56, both of Global Triple K Security Agency, were detained for harvesting or catching fish within the designated Managaha Marine Conservation Area.

Conservation officers reportedly seized from the defendants

a plastic bag containing five pieces of needle nose fish and fishing lines wrapped around two pieces of wood and a bottle.

Santos and Dellipou were taken to the CNMI Superior Court yesterday morning for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos released the defendants on \$500 unsecured bond each. Inos set the arraignment for March 16. He ordered the two to stay away from all conservation areas in the

CNMI, including Managaha.

Conservation officer Jesus A. Omar stated in his report that he, conservation technician Peter Teigita, and wildlife technician Paul Lisua were conducting routine patrol at Managaha when they came upon the two.

Omar said that, as they were heading toward the Managaha dock, they observed two men, later identified as Santos and Dellipou, standing beside the Department of Public Lands

payment booth at the dock.

Santos and Dellipou were allegedly holding the end of fishing lines.

Omar said that during his interview, Santos admitted that he was fishing and that he caught one fish but it got away.

Santos said it was his partner, Dellipou, who caught the five pieces of fish. He admitted being aware that he is not supposed to fish at Managaha and that they were fishing for 30 minutes only when the officers arrived.

Omar said Dellipou also admitted fishing for 30 minutes and was the one who caught the five pieces of needle nose fish.

Dellipou said he was going to cook two for dinner and take the other three home. He admitted his supervisor had informed him not to fish at Managaha. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

ter!" said Guiao, showing a picture of the wall.

On Tuesday, Guiao proceeded to Lower Miha housing in Garapan and took pictures of the many housing units littered with trash and filled with graffiti.

He said their group of senior citizens is willing to spend their time if the government cannot clean up the vandalized buildings in Lower Miha.

Guiao asked the business community to join their campaign by providing their group with paints and other materials so they can immediately start the beautification program.

The senior citizen urged the Department of Public Safety to arrest these juveniles, whom he described as "very abusive" in this time of economic crisis.

"What do you think the tourists will say if they pass by the Lower Miha and see these vandalized housing units?" asked Guiao, pointing to pictures of vandalized houses belonging to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

"Our group in the *man'amko* is going to stop this bad habit of some of our youth. Our law-makers, teachers, and parents should work together to stop this problem once and for all," he added.

Guiao said he visited Guam recently and was impressed that the government has been successful in dealing with the graffiti problem.

Last month, DPS, describing the graffiti problem on Saipan as "uncontrollable," has stepped up its operation against vandals.

Patrol officers recently arrested one of three male juveniles who spray-painted the public restroom at the Susupe Beach Park. The two other male juveniles managed to run away from the pursuing police officers.

DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau's Juvenile Investigator Vincent Mareham said patrol officers are now intensifying their patrols, particularly in dark areas in public places and parks.

Police said the penalty for vandalism ranges from five to 10 years in jail and a \$500 fine or more.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Marianas High School Class of 1989: Jesse Palacios; Gernadine Camacho; Elizabeth Concepcion; Glenna Reyes; Edsel Mendoza; Vincent Torres; Leona Sablan; Jennifer Rosario; Erlinda Villagomez; James Guerrero; Daisy Propst; and Omar Manacop during a recent get-together.

A grand year for MHS Class of '89

The Marianas High School Class of 1989 will celebrate its 20th year class reunion and to acknowledge Marianas High School as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

The MHS Class of '89 is calling on all alumni MHS 89ers to join plan, facilitate, and ensure a successful 20th year class reunion celebration, set for June 13, 2009.

Class assembly is ongoing in preparation for the grand event. The next meeting is set for this Saturday, March 7, 2009, at 6pm, at the residence of Glenna Sakisat-Palacios Reyes, in Dandan. Please call Glenna at 287-3278 or e-mail slowdeb@gmail.com or Ed Propst at 483-7361 or e-mail edpropst@gmail.com for direction and more information.

All MHS 89er Alumni are encouraged to attend and participate to ensure the success of our '89 class reunion grand celebration. *(PR)*



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-09 DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the Design and Replacement of the Saipan International Airport's Public Address System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails design, supply and installation of a complete public address (PA) system at the entire international terminal of the Saipan International Airport. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, March 6, 2009. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for the Saipan International Airport Public Address System Replacement - Design/Build Services". One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The offerer shall submit with their proposal the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Design and Installation Timeline
3. Project Approach;
4. D-B Construction Team;
5. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
6. Available resources to accomplish the project;
7. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
8. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams. Project approach, timeline and cost must be within the parameters of the established Statement of Work (SOW). Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package. All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Total cost for design and installation | 30% |
| 2. D-B Installation time frame (This is critical and must be submitted with the Request for Proposal Package. The work days are calendar days.) | 25% |
| 3. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff | 20% |
| 4. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects | 15% |
| 5. Project Approach | 10% |

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals. Award of a contract is contingent upon prior approval from FAA.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: March 3, 2009



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

March 3, 2009

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority thru its Chairman, hereby informs the general public that the CDA Board of Directors will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Second Floor, Wakin's Building, Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Saipan. The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|---|
| I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS | |
| 1. Roll Call | 3. Adoption of Minutes |
| 2. Adoption of Agenda | |
| II. PUBLIC COMMENTS | |
| III. REPORTS | |
| 1. Financial Report-CDA | 2. Legal Counsel's Report |
| a. FY 2006 & 2007 Audit Reports | |
| IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES | |
| 1. Development Corporation Division (DCD) | 3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget |
| a. Loan and Borrower's Requests | a. Rota Office |
| b. Foreclosed Properties - Proposals | 4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities |
| 2. DBD/Public Finance Committee | a. Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. |
| a. CPA-CDA Loan | |
| V. OLD BUSINESS | |
| 1. SBDC/Business Incubator | 3. Economic Restoration Summit |
| 2. Credit Union | |
| VI. NEW BUSINESS | |
| 1. Agricultural Summit | |
| 2. Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) Membership | |
| VII. OTHER MATTERS | |
| 1. Update on CDA Presentation to the Legislature | |
| 2. Senate Bill 16-50 | |
| VIII. ADJOURNMENT | |

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ **PEDRO I. ITIBUS**
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

BoG offers college scholarships

HAGATNA, Guam—For the sixth consecutive year, the Bank of Guam is offering local high school seniors an opportunity to apply for up to \$5,000 in grants through its participation with the 2009 Education Exchange College Grant Program.

Totaling \$50,000 in grants nationally for 2009, the Education Exchange Program is open to all college-bound, high school

seniors graduating this year. Applicants must be U.S. citizens and able to provide written acceptance to an accredited 4-year college by May 15, 2009. Other information includes an official copy of the high school transcript and two (2) letters of recommendation.

Applications are available at all Bank of Guam branches, and have been distributed to Guam's

high schools.

Students must mail their completed applications and supporting documents directly to the ACCEL/Exchange Network in New Jersey. The application package must be postmarked not later than March 16, 2009.

A total of four \$5,000 grants and 30 \$1,000 grants will be awarded by July 2009.

Under the ACCEL/Exchange Education Exchange Program, a total of 7 Guam students have been selected in the national process for a total of \$11,000. In 2008, 2 Academy of Our Lady of Guam students each were awarded \$1,000, while in 2006, three Guam students were awarded a record \$7,000. Guam's winners in 2004 and 2005 each won \$1,000. **(BoG)**

2 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Obyan Beach and Unai Dangkulo Beach on Saipan and is urging the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until notified.

This came about after DEQ analysis of water samples collected from the two sites this week showed excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. DEQ said the affected samples contained concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropi-

cal environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

The division analyzed water taken from 12 east and south recreational beaches on Saipan as part of routine sampling. Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and <http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm>. Interested individuals and organizations may also receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sr. Remedios PTA meeting

The Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center will have a PTA meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. **(PR)**

Pale' Luis de Medina Council sets meeting

All member knights of the Pale' Luis de Medina Council No. 11969 are invited to the first organizational general assembly council meeting on March 10, 2009, 7pm, at the San Vicente Church Social Hall.

Grand Knight Jim Ripple Jr. said the meeting's agenda includes reorganizing the council, introducing current and newest Brother Knights, the monthly council membership dues collection to the National Supreme Council, and deciding what fraternal services the council will provide to the community as a respected local, national, and international fraternal and volunteer Catholic organization.

"All member Knights of Pale' Luis de Medina Council are asked to e-mail kofcmedinacouncilsaipan@gmail.com to provide us your valid work/home/mobile phone contacts, e-mail address, and the name of the company you work for communications and program activities purposes," said Ripple.

For more information, contact the following:

- Grand Knight Jim Ripple at 235-2302 or allparts@pticom.com;
- Deputy Grand Knight Donisio S. Camacho at 233-3283;
- Secretary Sir Knight Tony L. Taisacan at tontee-1122@hotmail.com;
- or
- Financial Secretary John Oliver Gonzales at 285-6382 or kofcmedinacouncilsaipan@gmail.com. **(PR)**

Live fire training on Farallon

The U.S. military would be conducting live fire releases on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on March 2 – 5, 2009, from 8am to 10pm. The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. **(EMO)**

MHS Class of 1970 meeting set

The Marianas High School's Class of '70 will be having an organizational meeting on March 6, 2009, at 5:30pm, at the Bicol Pavilion, next to Kilili Beach. Be there! **(PR)**



CALL CENTER EXPANSION

IT&E president and chief executive officer Ricky Delgado, left, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, center, and Robert Harell, executive director of IT&E's customer contact operations, pose for a picture during a tour of IT&E's call center in Susupe Tuesday. IT&E has committed to expanding the CNMI's first call center.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH MARCH 2009

"CREATING COMMUNITIES OF THE FUTURE"



TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2009 - ROTA

Traumatic Brain Injury 101

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP

Venue: As Paris (ROTA)

Time: 8:30am – 10:00am

Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP

Venue: As Paris (ROTA)

Time: 10:00am – 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am – 1:00pm

Behavioralist: "Questions & Answers"

Facilitator: Lynn Corella, Behavior Specialist, Public School system

Venue: As Paris (ROTA)

Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2009 - ROTA

Sensitivity Training for Housing Authority Officials/Landlords & Transportation Service Providers;

Presenter: Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

Venue: TBA (ROTA)

Time: 8:00am – 4:00pm

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2009 - TINIAN

Sensitivity Training for Housing Authority Officials/Landlords & Transportation Service Providers

Presenter: Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

Venue: TBA (TINIAN)

Time: TBA

Traumatic Brain Injury 101

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP

Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)

Time: 8:30am – 9:45am

Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP

Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)

Time: 10:00am – 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am – 1:00pm

Speech Language

Conducted by: Laura Bucknel, Speech Pathologist, Public School System

Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Behavioralist: "Questions & Answers"

Conducted by: Lynn Corella, Behavior Specialist, Public School System

Venue: Flemings (TINIAN)

Time: 2:15pm – 3:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009

Classroom Observation – Observe school programs for students with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities and make recommendations about instruction, behavior management and curriculum.

Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue(s): CNMI Public school System (SAIPAN)

Time: 8:00am – 4:00pm

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

Meet the Families — Conduct consultation to families of children with Autism and other Developmental Disabilities and provide suggestions and strategies to families.

Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue: Saipan World Resort

Time: 8:00am – 5:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009

Welcoming Remarks By Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

Time: 8:00am – 8:15am

An Overview of the CNMI Developmental Disabilities Network "Tri-Agency"

David Attao, Director, Northern Marianas College-University

Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

Venue: Saipan World Resort

Time: 8:15am – 9:15am

Meet Your Service Providers/Exhibitors

PANELISTS: Public School Systems, Special Education, Social Security Office, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid, Workforce Investment Agency, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

Venue: Saipan World Resort

Time: 9:30am – 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am – 1:00pm

Keynote Address by Kent R. Logan, Ph.D. Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Time: 1:00pm – 1:30pm

"Characteristics of Autism and Strategies for Teaching Skills and Managing Problem Behavior"

Kent R. Logan, Ph.D. Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue: Saipan World Resort

Time: 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2009

Self-Advocacy – "Everyone Should Be An Advocate"

Presenter: Jim Rayphand, Director, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

Venue: Saipan World Resort

Time: 8:00am – 9:00am

Family Panel Discussion: Parents & Consumers "How did I get where I am today?"

This panel discussion will involve first-hand testimonies on the lives, the struggles, the hopes and dreams and the successes of our consumers.

Facilitators: CDD Staff/Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue: Saipan World Resort

Time: 9:15am – 11:30am

Lunch Break: 11:30am – 12:45pm

Directions/Guidelines for Concurrent Sessions
Ray Diaz, Program Officer, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

Session A: Parents With Children With Complex Physical and/or Multiple Disabilities: "Helping My Child Get A Great Start In Learning Language, Communicating, and Playing."

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Ball Room A

Time: 12:45pm – 2:45pm

Session B: "Integrated Programming for Children with Autism – A Preschool Program that Works."

Presenter: Mark Staal & Jerry Diaz, Special Teachers, Public School System

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Ball Room B

Time: 12:45pm – 2:45pm

Session C: Serving Customers with Disabilities: "Train Hospitality Industry Workers"

Presenter: Thomas J. Camacho, SADPP

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Taga Room

Time: 12:45pm – 2:45pm

Session D: Everyone Should Be an Advocate – Challenge Masters/R.O.P.E.S

Presenter: Thomas Thornburgh & Greg Borja, Projects Specialists, Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Lilac Room

Time: 12:45pm – 2:45pm

Parents with Older Kids Who Are Thinking and Worried About Transition: "Preparing My Child For Everyday Living"

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue: Saipan World Resort

Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Note: Please call the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities at 664-7000/1/3 or cell at 285-7261 to register. Seating is limited. Go to www.cnmicdd.org for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009

Award Ceremony

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Lilac Room

Time: 9am-11:30am (R.S.V.P.)

Public School System- HeadStart Teachers Training

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Ball Room

Time: 8:00am – 3:00pm

Public School Systems, Special Education Teachers Training

Presenter: Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue: Saipan World Resort/Ball Room

Time: 3:00pm – 5:00pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2009

Autism Society – Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., Autism Specialist for Dekalb County Schools, Atlanta, Georgia

Venue: TBA

Time: TBA



Event is Sponsored by the following, CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities; FS 360 Project; AT Project, Public School system, UCEDD and in collaboration with support and training by NMPASI

Naru Tomo! show highlights Saipan

Japanese variety show Naru Tomo! has chosen Saipan as the site of its 5th anniversary special, filming over the weekend of Feb. 28-29 at various locations on the tropical vacation island.

A 30-member team, including a director, talent, a talent manager and camera crew, kicked off shooting at Saipan World Resort at 8am on Saturday. The show will feature two teams of comedians vying for prizes including optional tours, meals, and limousine transportation around island. Tourist sites and attractions to be introduced to Japanese viewers through the show include Aquanaut sea bottom walking, Saipan Zoo, indigenous Chamorro cooking at Tan Goro Snack Shop, Kalabera Cave, the island's summit at Mt. Tapochao, the Grotto diving spot, local beaches, shopping in downtown tourist district of Garapan, fishing, and an island-style beach barbecue.

Near the end of shooting at Aquarius beach, show host Narumi was surprised with a cake celebrating the 20th anniversary of her public entertainment career.

"Naru Tomo! has been very popular in eastern Japan since its inception five years ago, and we're happy to be a part of their upcoming anniversary special," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "The winner in this light-hearted competition is really the Northern Marianas, given the significant publicity we will re-



Talent and film crew of the Japanese television show Naru Tomo! break for a commemorative photo while filming at Bird Island Lookout on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on March 1, 2009. The 5th anniversary special of Naru Tomo! featuring Saipan is scheduled to air on Yumiuri TV on March 22, 2009.

ceive from the show."

Naru Tomo! airs weekday mornings on Yumiuri TV, reaching nearly 9 million households in eastern Japan. The anniversary special featuring Saipan will air on Sunday, March 22, for 85 minutes. The approximate ad exposure value is \$4,546,000 US. (MVA)

The 5th anniversary special of the Japanese television show Naru Tomo! was recently filmed on Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, at various locations including picturesque Bird Island Lookout on March 1, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NMI presents at coral task force meeting

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial recently presented the CNMI coral reef accomplishments and challenges to members of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

Task force members meet bi-annually to discuss key issues, propose new actions, present progress reports, and update the coral community on past accomplishments and future plans. This was the task force's 21st meeting and was held at the U.S. Department of Interior on Feb. 25, 2009.

In his speech, Fitial pledged to ensure the protection of re-

sources. "The CNMI is committed to ensuring that our coral reefs, the crown jewels of our Oceans, will still be a bountiful, healthy and beautiful resource for future generations."

The CNMI boasted its success in reducing land-based pollution in Laolao Bay, Saipan and erosion at Talakhya, Rota. The CNMI Marine Monitoring Team has documented statistically sound marine-activity trends by quantifying negative relationships between watershed pollution and selected measures of seagrass, algae, and

coral assemblages, allowing the CNMI to re-focus its watershed management strategies.

The CNMI has also completed a Conservation Action Plan, a site specific, ridge-to-reef and ecosystem based approach. Fitial also remarked on the commitment of the CNMI people to protect reefs, citing the recent designation of the Marianas Trench Monument and the Micronesia Challenge.

The CNMI continues to raise community awareness through school visits and exhibits at community events. The most

popular project is the summer student internship, now in its seventh year. It has provided hands-on coral reef resource management experience to over 50 college students.

The CNMI was one of the few jurisdictions that raised the issue of climate change. "... There remain challenges that we face: the additional funding needed to implement projects, high staff turnovers, lack of training for staff and capacity in the agencies and the biggest threat, climate change," said Fitial. (DEQ)

White House accepting internship applications

On Feb. 26, 2009, President Obama announced the launch of the White House Internship Program, an opportunity for students to gain job experience in public service and leadership skills while getting a first-hand look at the inner-workings of the White House. Obama hopes that the program will not only give insight into the Executive Branch, but also prepare and mentor tomorrow's leaders.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan says that CNMI students should take advantage of this opportunity and encourages them to apply.

"The new NMI seat gives us a voice in Congress," he said. "We

should also look for occasions to serve and understand other branches of government, including the Executive. Working in the legislative and the executive can be very different experiences and it is imperative to study and to be able to understand all aspects of American government."

In addition to their regular office duties, participants are to take part in weekly lectures hosted by senior White House staff, help at White House social events and volunteer in community service projects.

To apply, students must be at least 18 years of age on or before the first day of their internship, enrolled in an undergraduate or

graduate program at a college, community college or university or must have graduated in the past two years from undergraduate or graduate school.

The 2009 White House Summer Internship program will last from May 22-August 14. Applications for the summer program are due on March 22 and applicants are to be notified by mid-April.

Interns will primarily work in a departmental office in the Office of the President or Vice President during the course of the program, which include:

White House Department of Scheduling and Advance
The Office of Cabinet Affairs
The White House Communi-

cations Department

The White House Office of Public Liaison and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Office of the First Lady

The White House Office of Legislative Affairs

The Office of Political Affairs

The Office of Management and Administration

The Office of White House Counsel

The Domestic Policy Council

The White House Office of Presidential Personnel

Office of the Vice President

To apply or for more information, visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/internships/>. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MARCH 5, 1999

Murkowski slams OIA

Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, has lashed out at the Office of Insular Affairs for what he described as apparent reluctance of the agency to help U.S. territories. In a speech at a recent committee hearing to tackle the FY 2000 spending plan of OIA, Murkowski said the budget proposal poorly reflects steps the agency intends to implement to address fiscal and economic woes of the jurisdictions. A major concern raised by Murkowski is Washington's plan to slash the commonwealth's annual construction grants by 51 percent to \$5.6 million for its failure to use Capital Improvement Project monies in the past.

NMC ungraded positions face ax

Some 20 employees of the Northern Marianas College who are holding ungraded positions will be served with a 90-day termination notice pending the opinion of the legal counsel. Former Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja, NMC's legal counsel, will deliver the verdict no later than today. During the Board of Regents special meeting held yesterday, Chairman Manuel Sablan reiterated his intention to issue such termination letters to give the college a "breathing period" to address the financial and personnel issues confronting the institution. "Give us 90 days to seriously look at these things. The idea is not to fire people but to reorganize ... there are some positions here that will be restructured," he said.

MARCH 5, 2001

Most NMI youths try smoking

Initial result of the tobacco survey now being conducted by the Department of Public Health disclosed that an estimated eight percent of Commonwealth youth have tried cigarette smoking. This was revealed by DPH Tobacco Master Settlement Advisory Committee member Malinda Matson during the American Cancer Society's 2001 Relay Rally held at the Pacific Island Club Thursday night. Ms. Matson said the figure is more reason why the health department should proceed with its planned two-year tobacco education forum which will be funded under the Legacy Foundation Grant.

DPS teams up with PNP to solve crimes

Local police officials have teamed up with their Philippine law enforcement counterparts in delving deeper into unsolved criminal cases involving Filipino nationals facing criminal charges in the CNMI. Authorities from both the Philippine and CNMI governments have forged alliance to bring justice to the recent arrest of seven Filipino nationals indicted on allegations of counterfeiting dollars, as well as the pending Chalan Kiya robbery incident pinpointing Filipino suspects. Police last year determined the location of the two male suspects, Victor Santa Monica and Allan Rodeo. They were arrested for the Oct. 9, 2000 robbery of a Japanese national in Chalan Kiya.

MARCH 5, 2002

Businesses wrestle for growth

General Fund revenue collections for the period from July to September of 2001 fell by a record-low of 22.07 percent from the previous quarter, while business gross revenue reported also slid by an unprecedented 16.39 percent when compared to the preceding quarter. Latest data released by the Department of Commerce showed that the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2000-2001 showed significant declines in the gross revenue reported by Commonwealth businesses, as well as in General Fund revenue collected. The declining trend showed whether the comparison is made on a quarter-to-quarter or year-to-year basis.

Hotel occupancy rate drops to 5-year low

Hotel occupancy rate dropped to 54 percent in 2001, the lowest since 1996, according to a report prepared by the Central Statistics Division of the CNMI Department of Commerce. Although it managed to slightly recover in the first three months of 2000, the NMI hotel industry experienced yet another slump following the September 11 crash attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Analysts said this only shows the volatility of the travel sector and how easily the rally of neighboring Asian economies, as well as that of the mainland US, can affect economic and business conditions on the islands.



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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

ICE fishing

A recent report by the Migration Policy Institute, a Washington think tank, found that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested 96,000 illegal immigrants from 2003 through 2008. The number, although large, wasn't surprising. After all, the Bush administration had beefed up ICE's budget and staffing in order to apprehend more illegal immigrants with criminal records, a top administration priority.

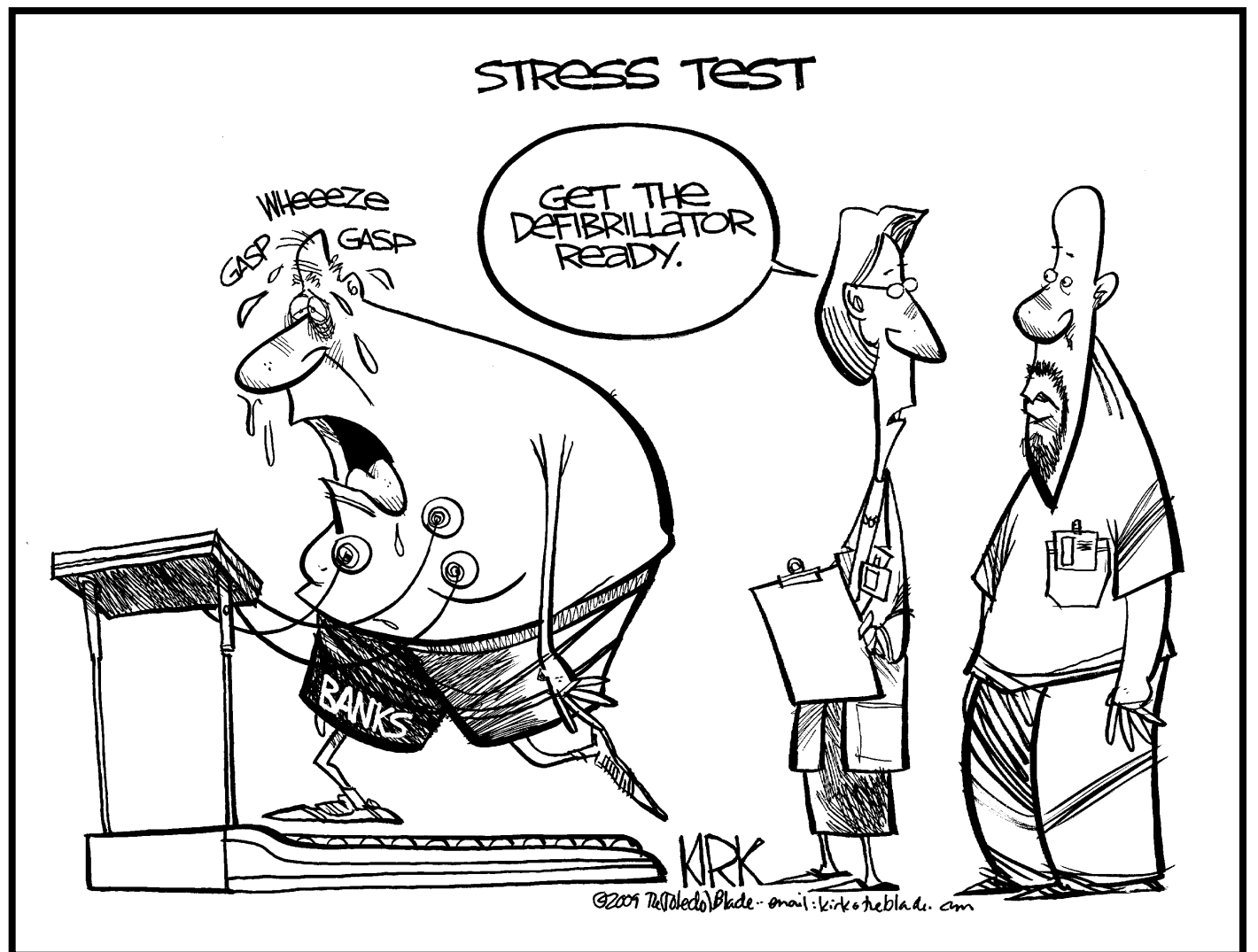
What does raise eyebrows, though, was that almost three-quarters of those arrested by ICE's fugitive operations teams did not have criminal records. In other words, the agency, brawny with hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding and a 1,300 percent increase in staffing, was nabbing lots of waiters and car-washers whose only crime beyond their illegal entry was to have ignored a deportation order. Not exactly high security threats.

How did this happen? In 2006, immigration officials raised arrest quotas for fugitives by a factor of eight, and then eliminated a requirement that 75 percent of those arrested had to be wanted for crimes other than entering or remaining in the country illegally. ICE officials say that when the agency targets a criminal fugitive, it often chances on other immigrants eligible for deportation, making it relatively easy to boost the arrest rate.

We're not suggesting that ICE should look the other way when it finds illegal immigrants. Rather, we're arguing for a renewed emphasis on the most dangerous criminals. Under ICE policies, illegal immigrants are targeted for arrest based on the dangers they are thought to pose. In Category 1 are those who pose threats to national security. They are followed by those considered threats to the community, fugitives who are violent criminals, fugitives with criminal records and, last, in Category 5, immigrants with no known offenses other than being here illegally. That is a logical set of priorities, but they clearly aren't being followed. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has issued directives for an assessment of the fugitive operations program, and we hope it will bring ICE back to its previous mission.

Deportations won't solve the nation's immigration problem. For all of ICE's efficiency—the number of people with outstanding deportation orders is down from a high of 634,000 in 2007 to 554,000—there are still 11 million or so illegal immigrants to go. A smarter approach can be seen in ICE's efforts to deport prison inmates; that rids the nation, at least temporarily, of felons. If the top priority is security, as it should be, such programs are more productive than wasteful, punitive roundups of nannies and gardeners.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times



Let our start-ups bail us out

President Obama noted last week that “we have lived through an era where, too often, short-term gains were prized over long-term prosperity.” As the \$787 billion stimulus is sorted out, we should consider not only what's there but also what's missing. Unless lawmakers move to jump-start key elements of sustainable economic growth, we may find ourselves worse off in a few years.

The stimulus finances important development of infrastructure, renewable energy and scientific research, which is great for jobs in the short term but doesn't guarantee the vibrant economic ecosystem required for sustainability. The credit meltdown, the mortgage crisis and the collapse of automakers have created a climate of fear around investment at precisely the time that new ventures—not merely new technologies—need to be championed as the course to stability. Products and services drive a healthy economy. To translate the stimulus into sustainable growth, we need incentives for business innovators.

Entrepreneurs are the fertile soil for job growth and recovery. Small companies represent 99.7 percent of all employer firms, Commerce Department data show. They pay nearly 45 percent of U.S. private payroll and have generated 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs annually over the past decade.

Consider a few start-ups from the past century: Apple, Microsoft, MTV, CNN, FedEx, Intel, Hewlett-Packard, Burger King. Each opened during a period of economic downturn. Today, these brands employ hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. We need to prepare for the next Apple or Burger King. By empowering individuals and small businesses, an innovation stimulus can help germinate stable industry players for the long term.

Venture capitalists are biding their time—not for want of good ideas, solid management or stable capital but to ensure that they can get the most bang for their buck. Similarly, venture capital firms are waiting for the slide to stop and the recovery to begin before investing.

The government should improve the situation by offering incentives for entrepreneurship and innovation. How to get started?

First, encourage small business with loans. Apply to the United States the micro-lending model that has proved successful in developing countries, extending credit lines of up to \$50,000. Help small businesses invest and grow, reimagine their products and services, and assess their strengths. Localized innovation develops the economy from the ground up.

Second, welcome foreign innovators. Harvard research fellow Vivek Wadhwa reports that immigrants have founded more than half of all Silicon Valley start-ups in the past decade. These immigrant-led, American tech companies employed more than 450,000 workers and grossed \$52 billion in 2005. For U.S. companies to employ a highly specialized foreign worker, the employee must hold

By REID HOFFMAN

Special to The Washington Post

The writer is founder and chief executive of LinkedIn.



an H-1B visa, but current law allows for the issuing of only 65,000 H-1B visas per year.

The H-1B cap was established to prevent foreigners from taking American jobs, but, in fact, an education gap frequently leaves American candidates less qualified for these positions. Lawmakers could improve the situation all around by removing the cap on H-1B visas while imposing a 10 percent payroll tax above and beyond the benchmark salary for any position being filled by holders of such visas. The proceeds of the payroll tax could be channeled into U.S. re-education programs. This compromise would bring the best innovators to work here while subsidizing the continued education of American talent.

Finally, match funds for venture capital and angel investments. Venture firms and investors need financial incentives to invest in companies that create U.S. jobs. What if firms with credible histories could receive as much as \$100 million in federal matching funds if their investments create jobs in the United States? Investors could keep their normal return plus 50 percent of the returns on the matching funds, while the other half goes back to the government to revitalize further investment. This would give individuals an incentive to double down on investments they would make anyway, but sooner rather than later.

Having invested in more than 60 start-ups since 2000, I know that financing strategy is key in keeping new ventures afloat. For start-ups, the difference between being a dollar profitable or a dollar unprofitable is life or death. Stable financing lets companies develop good product strategies and become self-sustaining—and that, on the micro level, is what we need to do with the economy.

This is the time for President Obama to take a page from his campaign playbook. Why stop at tapping the grass roots to debate the stimulus? He should seek to fund innovation at the grass-roots level. Obama is familiar with using YouTube and social networks—products of start-ups and tools of the people. His administration should make it a point not only to avoid propping up failing, overleveraged institutions but to finance new businesses, back promising ventures, welcome the best foreign minds and nurture native talent. By providing incentives to American ingenuity, we can innovate our way out of this recession.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Small is big

"We must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude. If we run into such debt, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements, for our calling and our creeds...[we will] have no time to think, no means of calling our miss-managers to account but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow-sufferers..."

—Thomas Jefferson

In a letter to the editor last week, Rudy Pamintuan from Chicago, Illinois posed some good questions concerning the stimulus bill or any number of other federal initiatives. One was: Will real job creation be possible without salvaging small businesses?

So far we have seen hundreds of *billions* of dollars being thrown to major corporations, auto manufacturers, insurance companies, real estate companies, and banks to try and stave off the breaking economic dam. It's obvious that if you throw enough money at a problem, it will sometimes fix itself—or it could encourage the people who helped create the problems in the first place to continue their irresponsible course of action if accountability is diminished.

Billions more are going to be spent on health-care reform and other looming issues exacerbated by those aging baby boomers. These are issues that need to be addressed and will impact millions, but how will it really help fix the economy, create more jobs, and help build a sustainable economic base for continued growth?

Even though one of the primary goals is to reduce joblessness and create more jobs through more government programs, there seems to be little in the stimulus package to address real job creation and self-perpetuating economic growth. Increasing more government jobs will place a greater burden on taxpayers and could help drain the economy. Just look at our situation in the CNMI. Do you think that if we got millions to freely spend, it would be wisely invested to

help create more private-sector jobs by assisting small businesses, or improve infrastructure to eventually attract more investors or tourists? Sure, some might be spent on those things, but our bet is that it would be used for pet projects or to create more needless government jobs and programs that do little, if nothing, to improve the economy, but they help "buy" more votes to ensure the status quo.

Instead, it appears that the U.S. is going full-throttle toward a more socialist state of governance where the government has all the answers and solutions to take care of our food, housing, and medical needs. As Rahm Emanuel, the President's chief of staff said last November, "You never want a serious crisis to go to waste." And it looks as if this crisis is being milked to the max to fast-forward Big Brother's political agenda, and make us "glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow-sufferers."

The only real sustainable solution toward moving the United States toward a firm financial base is to support and strengthen free market capitalism, and the foundation of it is to support and encourage the creation of more small businesses—not bail out big businesses that created the problems. Small business is really quite big. According to the Small Business Administration's standards for a small business, a business can have gross receipts of up to \$2 million and have up to 1,500 employees in a manufacturing plant, and still be considered small. Approximately 97 percent of all non-farm businesses are considered small by the SBA standards, and they create the majority of new jobs in the United States. So in reality, small is really big because they play a big part in the economic growth of the United States. However, they are practically being ignored in the much touted stimulus bill.

Pamintuan points out that in the most recent available data, small businesses with fewer than 500 employees accounted for almost all net new jobs. "Small firms had a net gain of 1.86 million new jobs, while large firms with 500 or more employees had a net loss of 181,000 jobs. Small firms employed 50.9 percent of the private-se-

refinements, like knowing classical languages. Yet the most cherished ideal—Arete, the classical Greek concept of honor—is anything but passe. Just as "Semper Fidelis" (always faithful) is not merely the Marine Corps motto but a way of life, so is honor a form of mental conditioning—a force-multiplier: Decide in advance to act honorably, and you know without hesitation what to do in a crisis. Codes of conduct are society's version of the same conditioning.

The demographics of today's military—strained as we are—offer hope. In 2007, 99 percent of recruits were high school graduates (vs. 84 percent nationally), and 95 percent of officers had bachelor's degrees (vs. 27 percent nationally). Exploding the myth that enlistees have no other options, 50 percent of recruits came from the wealthiest two-fifths of neighborhoods, but only 29 percent from the poorest two-fifths. We also mirror the country's rich diversity: 34.5 percent of recruits belong to a racial or ethnic minority (vs. 34.2 percent nationally).

The physical excitement of combat isn't the attraction. It's the opportunity to make a difference. We don't leave our families for the paycheck, we don't deploy into a combat zone for the living conditions and we don't ensure that there is a round in the chamber because we want to shoot someone. Our motives, like war itself, are complex, layered and visceral.

During the darkest days of World War II, George Orwell allowed that "we sleep safe in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to do violence to those who would harm us." That is what we do—but only when we do it right. Service members, like cops, have clearly defined codes of conduct, the strength of which leads to outrage when they are violated, whether by a cop abusing suspects or a soldier abusing prisoners. The outrage is particularly acute among those who share the code: No one hates a bad cop more than a good one.

But if we limit the honor and physical courage of the warrior ideal to an isolated subculture of military, police and firefighters, focusing them solely on those virtues, we risk cultivating doers

By **RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



tor work force and generated 50.7 percent of the non-farm private gross domestic product."

Don't think we're being naysayers. We would seriously like to see the stimulus bill stimulate some real economic growth, but what we're seeing so far is doing little to create the changes that will be long-lasting and create more jobs in the private sector—unless one works for a bank, auto manufacturer, the health care industry, or other private and government organizations that are receiving *billions* in borrowed money. In my gut I believe the long-term affect is going to do us more harm than good. More debt and big government interference means more taxes and a greater burden on individuals and small businesses to feed an ever-expanding government workforce.

Yes, we are going to see change, but is it the kind we can believe in and really want for us, and our children's future?

"Small business is the backbone of the U.S. economy, creating two out of every three new jobs, employing half the private work force, accounting for 40 percent of America's total gross national product. And it's one of the reasons Americans are enjoying this longest era of peacetime growth in the history of our country. But, of course, the magic of small business is not in the power of its numbers but in the power of its dreams, of its aspirations."

—George (not W) Bush, May 8, 1990

Duties best shared

"Send in the Marines" has been uttered by every president since Thomas Jefferson sent a detachment of leathernecks to the shores of Tripoli in 1801. These words are likely to be uttered in the next four years—which is of special interest to me as a Marine who has served multiple combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Veteran status is no guarantor of a leader's successful use of the military, of course; nor is its absence necessarily a harbinger of misuse. But in the 1970s, 74 percent of Congress had prior military service. Today: 23 percent. Barack Obama, though respectful of the military, has no service record and only two veterans in his Cabinet—the fewest since Herbert Hoover. By contrast, John Kennedy, decorated for heroism in World War II, had only two Cabinet members who were not veterans.

These figures reflect a disturbing national trend, with the military and civilian worlds warily eyeing each other across a cultural no man's land. As tightening budgets shrink future forces, veterans will be fewer and the chasm wider—to our peril.

No one wants everyone to think and act alike—diversity is a major source of our nation's strength. But this diminishing shared experience leaves us ill-prepared to defend against global terrorism. As Gen. William Butler warned a century ago, "A nation that insists on a broad line of demarcation between the fighting man and the thinking man is liable to find its fighting done by fools and its thinking done by cowards."

It was not always so. We praise classical Greece for philosophy, art and democracy. Yet Athenians knew Socrates, the father of philosophy, for his bravery on the battlefield and Xenophon, author of the epic "Anabasis," for his generalship. Aeschylus, antiquity's greatest tragedian, wrote his own epitaph: "This gravestone covers Aeschylus ... The field of Marathon will speak of his bravery."

In our time, a steady aggrandizement of self at the expense of society has forced the warrior culture and its ideals to the margins as antique

By **MATTHEW BOGDANOS**

Special to The Washington Post

Matthew Bogdanos, the author of Thieves of Baghdad, is an assistant district attorney for New York City and a colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves.



less tolerant of different lifestyles or ways of thinking. And if we limit aesthetic appreciation to the world of academics and economic elites, never encouraging them to roll up their own sleeves, we risk fostering gifted thinkers great on nuance, but subject to paralysis by analysis.

Or worse. This artificial separation forces us to confront global terrorism with either the compassionate consensus of the whole-foods collective or the indiscriminate anger of the lynch mob—failures both. "War is an ugly thing," British philosopher John Stuart Mill wrote about the American Civil War, "but not the ugliest of things: the decayed ... feeling which thinks nothing worth war is worse." We must, instead, face terrorism's cult of death with hard steel, informed strategies and a rock-solid code of shared societal behavior to defeat those whose defining feature is the absence of honor.

Without greater understanding between the military and civilian worlds or, better, a return to a synthesis of the two, we risk a future without all of us working toward the same ends—whatever society decides those ends should be. And we risk misusing military force because of misunderstandings about what it can and can't do or, once used, its being prematurely withdrawn because of unrealistic expectations. The solution is an educated citizenry that understands its soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines—understands that we are you.

Letter to the Editor

Andersen's take on federalization

Someone once admonished that people who live in glass houses must not hurl rocks against their neighbors. In brief, our country has used "kaboom diplomacy" over the last 60 years against "rogue countries" until it secures total submission.

It may have worked under the old mouthwash of "national interest" but the dire consequence is the emergence of suicidal non-conventional soldiers today hailing from among religious warriors in Muslim countries who have organized against the West.

Are they interested in the destruction of simple islanders living

under the dictates of a mighty nuclear power? Isn't CINPAC Honolulu the nerve center of the Pentagon? Who among Asian countries is going to challenge the firepower of the strongest navy on earth?

The use of the fear rhetoric isn't making any headway here. Like other states in the union now challenging the federal government against intrusion of their sovereign rights, we also want the same as penned under the Covenant agreement. This is the genesis of the federal lawsuit seeking to protect what's ours under a U.S. public law.






We ask for nothing more. We seek for an inclusive participation in the formulation of federal policies affecting these isles. We too are tired of hearing old commands like, "don't watch what we do; listen to what we tell you to do." Eh, shouldn't the growth and maturity processes be allowed to take its full course? I am sure you have gone through these processes too, right?

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

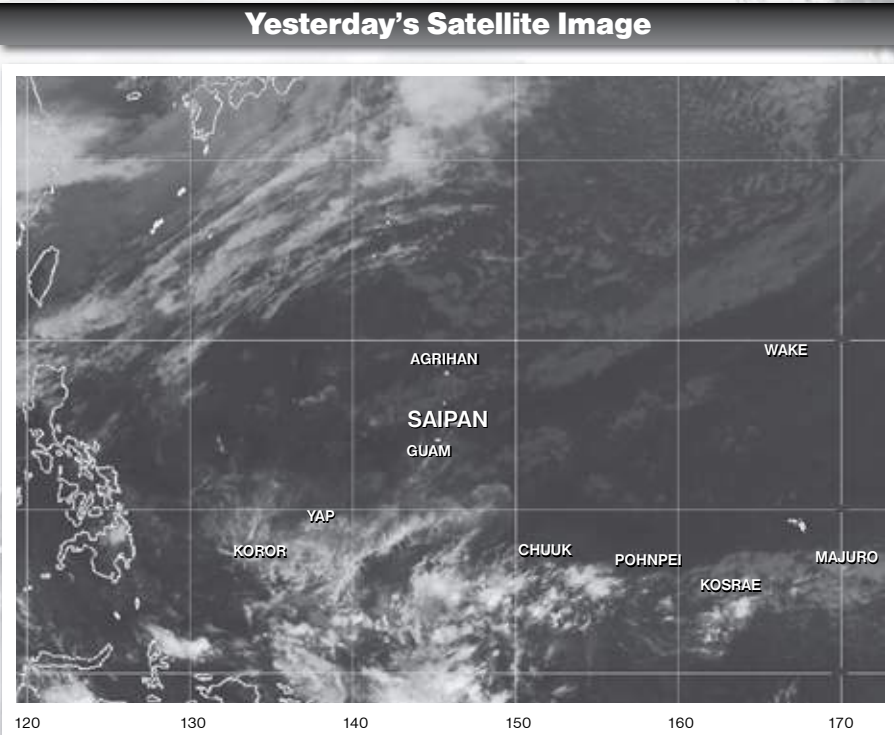
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Rain	▲88 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Chuuk	Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼75

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Rain	▲77 ▼69
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲39 ▼27
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼66
Honolulu	Showers	▲74 ▼67
London	Rain/Snow	▲41 ▼36
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲64 ▼50
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼75
Melbourne	Rain	▲64 ▼54
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲74 ▼63
New York	Cloudy	▲43 ▼34
Osaka	Showers	▲48 ▼47
Paris	Showers	▲43 ▼31
Pusan	Rain	▲56 ▼39
Rome	Rain	▲54 ▼43
Salem	Showers	▲49 ▼31
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲59 ▼46
Seoul	Rain	▲45 ▼25
Tokyo	Showers	▲50 ▼41
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲54 ▼37

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
3:32 AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
7:36 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
12:40 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
8:56 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level trough stretches from 10N180 to 7N173E to 7N163E to 6N160E to 6N145E. The combination of upper-level divergence south of the trough axis and trade-wind convergence is creating a band of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms up to 200 miles south of the trough. These showers are affecting Majuro and Kosrae but are south of Kwajalein, Chuuk and Pohnpei. A shear line extends from 25N169E to near Anatahan at 16N145E to 15N140E. Extensive low cloud-cover and patchy rain with embedded scattered showers are found along and up to 125 miles to the northwest of the shear line.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:32 AM	6:25 PM	Today	12:31 PM	1:05 AM
Friday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM	Friday	1:35 PM	2:06 AM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM	Saturday	2:35 PM	3:04 AM
Sunday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM	Sunday	3:42 PM	3:57 AM
Monday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM	Monday	4:42 PM	4:46 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
Saipan-Rota			Rota-Saipan		
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm 1,7	CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam			Guam-Saipan		
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am Daily	CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am 1,2,3,4,7
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am Daily	CO9598	2:30am	4:00am 5,6 via Rota
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm 1,7 via Rota	CO9596	7:00am	7:50am Daily
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6	CO9600	10:20am	11:10am Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm Daily	CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm Daily	CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm Daily	CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita			Narita-Saipan		
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am Daily	NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7	NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm Daily	NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita			Narita-Guam		
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm Daily	NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm Daily	NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka			Osaka-Saipan		
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am 1,4,6	OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm Daily
Guam-Osaka			Osaka-Guam		
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm Daily	NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			Nagoya-Saipan		
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am Daily	NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya			Nagoya-Guam		
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm Daily	NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon			Incheon-Saipan		
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am 1	OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm Daily
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7	OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1 7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka	OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm Daily	OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan			Busan-Saipan		
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am 1,4,5,7	OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai			Shanghai-Saipan		
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am 2,6	FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam			Guam-Rota		
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm 1,7	CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau			Palau-Guam		
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm 1,7	CO 954	2:30am	5:25am 1,2
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm 3,5	CO 892	2:35am	5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila			Manila-Palau		
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm 3,5	CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila			Manila-Guam		
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm 3,5 via Koror	CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm Daily	CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1 Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			Manila-Nagoya		
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm Daily	NW 72	6:30am	11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			Hongkong-Incheon		
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm Daily	OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm Daily	OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am 1,4,6
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm 5,7	OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila			Manila-Narita		
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm Daily	NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm Daily
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)					

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Island Snapshots



UP CLOSE WITH CLOSE UP

Fourteen Close-Up students from the Northern Mariana Islands visited CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan in Washington last week and had lunch at his office on Capitol Hill. Following a question-and-answer session with the NMI Delegate, the students toured the Capitol with Sablan's staff. That same afternoon the students sat in on the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife hearing on H.R. 934. The bill gives control of submerged lands to the Northern Marianas and is the first ever introduced by a Northern Marianas representative in the Congress. Pictured with Kilili at his desk, back row, from left, are Masako Atalig, Wayne W. Wagan, Cedrick Arenas Libut, Heartim Williams, Quaid Taima Ngirchongor, Albert Manglona Jr. Front row, from left, are Janessa Anya Aquino, Nicole Cabrera Tesiro, Kristen Nicole Duenas Salas, Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Angelo Ayuyu, Collin Duenas, Quina Marie Mendiola, Nakita Marie Cabrera, and Consolacion Igisomar.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEW CHRISTIAN

Happy Christening to baby Michael JR Fitipol, center, who was baptized into the Christian faith on Feb. 28, 2009. Michael is shown here with, from left, brother Ignacio, Mommy Suellen, Mel, Diane, Liza, Daddy Mike, Dexter, and Maggie at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe to celebrate the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



DC VISITORS

From left, Fran Castro of the Division of Environmental Quality; Michael Mann, EPA Region 9 and CNMI Program Manager; and Reina Camacho, also of DEQ, visit CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan's office in Washington, D.C. The three were attending the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting and the Coral Reef Conservation Act and submerged lands hearing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



LUXURY CRUISE

Passengers of the Japanese luxury cruise ship *Pacific Venus* walk back to the 183-meter long ship at the Port of Saipan in Lower Base after a few hours of shopping and sightseeing on the island last week. *Pacific Venus*, which carried 288 passengers and 130 crew to Saipan, was headed for Yokohama, Japan after also visiting Palau and Australia.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



HISPANIC CAUCUS

Congressional Hispanic Caucus members met with Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano at the Capitol on Feb. 25. At back: Representatives Henry Cuellar (D-Texas), Ed Pastor (D-AZ), Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (I-NMI), Grace F. Napolitano (D-CA), Xavier Becerra (D-CA), Luis V. Gutierrez (D-III.) and Ben R. Luján (D-NM). Seated, Caucus chair Nydia Velazquez and Secretary Napolitano. All are members of the Democratic Caucus.

MIGUEL AYALA



IGIA MEETING

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar presides over the annual meeting of the White House Interagency Group on Insular Affairs at the Interior headquarters in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 24, 2009. Present at the meeting were the governors of all insular areas, including CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Guam Gov. Feliz Camacho, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Sablan and Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, and ranking Interior and Department of Homeland Security officials.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

As recession saps demand, a world awash in oil

NEW YORK (AP)—Supertankers that once raced around the world to satisfy an unquenchable thirst for oil are now parked off-shore, fully loaded, anchors down, their crews killing time. In the United States, vast storage farms for oil are almost out of room.

As demand for crude has plummeted, the world suddenly finds itself awash in oil that has nowhere to go.

It's been less than a year since oil prices hit record highs. But now producers and traders are struggling with the new reality: The world wants less oil, not more. And turning off the spigot is about as easy as turning around one of those tankers.

So oil companies and investors are stashing crude, waiting for demand to rise and the bear

market to end so they can turn a profit later.

Meanwhile, oil-producing countries such as Iran have pumped millions of barrels of their own crude into idle tankers, effectively taking crude off the market to halt declining prices that are devastating their economies.

Traders have always played a game of store and sell, bringing oil to market when it can fetch the best price. They say this time is different because of how fast the bottom fell out of the oil market.

"Nobody expected this," said Antoine Halff, an analyst with Newedge. "The majority of people out there thought the market would keep rising to \$200, even \$250, a barrel. They

were tripping over each other to pick a higher forecast."

Now the strategy is storage. Anyone who can buy cheap oil and store it might be able to sell it at a premium later, when the global economy ramps up again.

The oil tanks that surround Cushing, Okla., in a sprawling network that holds 10 percent of the nation's oil, have been swelling for months. Exactly how close they are to full is a closely guarded secret, but analysts who cover the industry say Cushing is approaching capacity.

There are other storage tanks in the country with plenty of extra room to take on oil, but Cushing is the delivery point for the oil traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange. So the closer Cushing gets to full, the

lower the price of oil goes.

Some oil is ending up in giant ships and staying there. On these supertankers, rented by oil

companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, there is little for crews to do but paint and repaint the decks to pass time.

Obama tries to pump up confidence in US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trying to pump up the nation's confidence, President Barack Obama said Tuesday that Wall Street has been hammered so hard that "buying stocks is a potentially good deal," and he dispatched top aides to Capitol Hill to defend his plans for pulling the economy out of its deep recession. The stock market slipped ever lower, and Republicans suggested Obama was "cooking the books" in rosy recovery predictions.

After being accused for weeks of being too negative about the economy, Obama recently has

shifted to a more positive tone. He and his aides still say recovery won't come quickly, but they are becoming more aggressive in declaring that the government's efforts will work.

They better work, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said. The country faces "a prolonged episode of economic stagnation" without bold policy moves, he told the Senate Banking Committee.

Separately, the Fed announced a long-awaited program to spur lending for autos, education, credit cards and other consumer loans by providing up

to \$200 billion in financing to investors to buy up the debt. If the program succeeds, it should help break economy-crippling credit clogs and make it easier for Americans to finance purchases large and small at lower rates, Bernanke said.

"What the economy requires, what the American people demand is that we move as aggressively as we can to get growth back on track," Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. "I'm confident this is the right path for the country."

Democrats reach deal on mortgage relief bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Democrats, under pressure from a group of moderates in their ranks and the banking lobby, agreed Tuesday to narrow legislation that gives bankruptcy judges the power to force lenders to rewrite mortgages for debt-strapped homeowners. The compromise legislation was expected to come to a vote in the House as early as Thursday.

Under the terms of the agreement, judges would have to consider whether a homeowner had been offered a reasonable deal by the bank to rework his

or her home loan before deciding whether to take judicial action to lower the interest rate or principal.

Borrowers also would have a responsibility to prove that they tried to modify their mortgages with their lenders before seeking help in bankruptcy court.

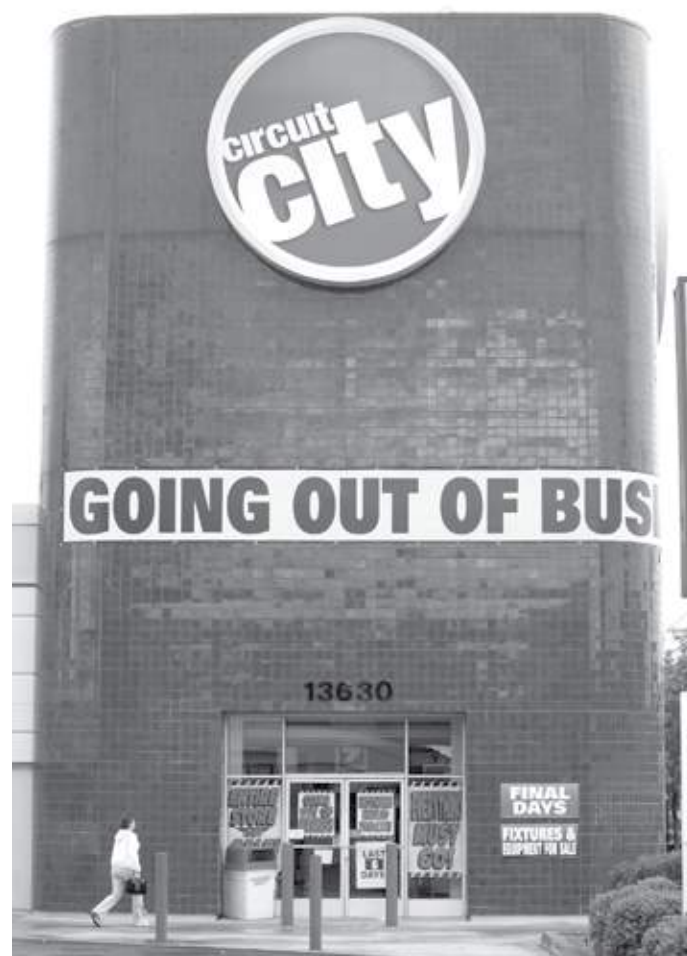
"If there is modification available, you would prefer that than a bankruptcy," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., one of the centrist negotiators on the bill.

Democrats said the goal was to make bankruptcy clearly a last resort for homeowners in

danger of losing their homes.

"The concern is that we want to ensure that those people who get relief have tried other avenues," House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said.

Mortgage lenders who mounted a costly and successful effort last year to kill the measure, which they call the "cramdown," have been lobbying intensely to restrict the bill. They argued that mortgage adjustments made in bankruptcy would raise mortgage interest rates for all consumers and create a wave of bankruptcy claims.



GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

Circuit City advertises going out of business on Monday March 2, 2009. The retail shakeout, from the liquidation of Circuit City to the shuttering of Linens 'N Things, means opportunities for the survivors.

BoG receives ABA community bank award

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam was nationally recognized for its contributions to the community at the American Bankers Association National Conference for Community Bankers in Phoenix, Arizona last Feb. 17.

BoG was awarded for its efforts in the "Improving Financial Literacy" category.

The bank has led Guam's participation in the ABA's Annual National Teach Children to Save Day, now entering its 7th year. Additionally, the bank organizes outreach efforts with the Juvenile Drug Court, the Consulate of the Philippines, the University of Guam and others.

The ABA Selection Committee awarded 15 banks from a field of over 100 nomina-

tions based on the innovation, creativity and effectiveness of the bank's approach to making a difference in its community. The ABA Community Bank Awards program was established in 2005 to recognize community banks' outstanding charitable achievements.

BoG is celebrating its 37th year and has 22 branches and over 70 ATMS throughout Guam, Saipan, Rota, Tinian, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Majuro, Belau, and San Francisco, California, and employs over 400 throughout its network.

At the ABA ceremony in Phoenix, Arizona and receiving the award for BoG was William D. Leon Guerrero, executive vice president, chief operating officer, and board vice chair. (PR)

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA 3,125.90 Down 45.500 (-1.43%)	HONG KONG 12,114.26 Up 80.38 (0.67%)	JAKARTA 1,271.71 Up 6.895 (0.55%)
TOKYO 7,290.96 Up 61.24 (0.85%)	K. LUMPUR 868.74 Down 7.82 (-0.89%)	MANILA 1,885.92 Up 25.94 (1.39%)
SINGAPORE 1,537.34 Up 8.83 (0.58%)	SEOUL 1,059.26 Up 33.69 (3.29%)	BANGKOK 414.19 Up 1.10 (0.27%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
6,726.02
37.27

NASDAQ
1,321.01
-1.84

S&P
696.33
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.5749
British Pound	0.7131
Canadian Dollar	1.2942
Chinese Renminbi	6.8422
Euro	0.7989
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7585
Indian Rupee	51.8800
Indonesian Rupiah	12,130.0000
Japanese Yen	98.5400
Malaysian Ringgit	3.7155
New Zealand Dollar	2.0153
Philippine Peso	48.6600
Singapore Dollar	1.5520
South Korean Won	1,551.0000
Swiss Franc	1.1802
Taiwan Dollar	35.0120
Thailand Baht	36.1400

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asian stock markets rise amid China stimulus hopes

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets recovered modestly Wednesday as hopes China would expand measures to revive its economy countered growing signs of economic decay in the U.S. and other major countries. The upward move followed heavy selling over the last two days and bucked a fifth-straight

day of declines on Wall Street. Chinese shares led the region's advance on speculation the country's leaders would unveil new initiatives to bolster the world's third-largest economy, its growth now sputtering, at a legislative meeting that opens Thursday. That gave a boost to other Asian markets, including Japan and Hong Kong. Also helping sentiment were figures that Chinese manufacturing, while contract-

ing again in February, did so at a slower rate than the previous month. For many investors, the news fed hopes that Chinese demand and growth can help bring about a quicker end to worst global slowdown in decades.

Australia's economy shrank in last quarter of 2008

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's economy shrank 0.5 percent in

the last quarter of 2008, the government said Wednesday in an unexpected announcement that suggested the country may be entering a recession. The news of the economy's first contraction in eight years surprised economists who had expected the Australian Bureau of Statistics to report a slight increase in gross domestic product. But the bureau said GDP fell by 0.5 percent in the last quarter in seasonally ad-

justed terms. Australia is not yet in a recession—technically two consecutive quarters of contraction—because a narrow rise of 0.1 percent was reported in the third quarter. Growth slowed to just 0.3 percent for the year, underlining how quickly Australia's resources-based economy has slumped since the U.S. financial crisis sent shockwaves around the globe in the middle of last year.

Nation

Marines: Mechanical, human errors led to jet crash

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A military jet crash that killed four people and incinerated two homes was caused by mechanical failure and a string of bad decisions that led the pilot to bypass a potentially safe landing at a coastal Navy base, the Marines said Tuesday.

The military disciplined 13 members of the Marines and the Navy for a series of errors that led to the crash. Low oil pressure killed the jet's first engine, and the second died when fuel stopped flowing from the tank.

Recordings of conversations between federal air controllers and the pilot of the F/A-18D Hornet show the pilot, Lt. Dan Neubauer, was repeatedly offered a chance to land the plane at the Naval Air Station North Island in Coronado. The base sits at the tip of a peninsula with a flight path over water.

Instead, the pilot decided to fly the jet, which had lost one engine and was showing signs of trouble with the second, to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, which is about 10 miles north of Coronado, the Federal Aviation Administration tapes disclose.

Col. John Rupp, operations officer for the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing at



Marine Corps Col. John Rupp answers a question in front of a graphic of an F/A-18 during a news conference held at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Tuesday, March, 3, 2009 in San Diego. AP

Miramar, said there was "collectively bad decision-making" by officers in San Diego who told the pilot to land at the inland base. He faulted the pilot for neglecting to consult a checklist of emergency procedures and for failing to grasp the severity of his problems.

The first engine indicated low oil pressure 10 minutes into the 47-minute training flight, which began from the carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* off the San Diego coast, Rupp said. The pilot shut off the engine seven minutes later.

A squadron representative on the aircraft carrier told the pilot to land at North Island, which was a "conservative and prudent decision," Rupp said.

A low-fuel warning occurred 25 minutes into the flight, when the plane was 61 miles off the coast from North Island, he said.

Officers at Miramar, including the squadron's commanding officer, cleared the pilot to go to the inland base, favoring Miramar's longer runway and assuming the pilot was closer to the base than he actually was, Rupp said.

Senate ignores McCain, keeps thousands in earmarks

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate voted overwhelmingly to preserve thousands of earmarks in a \$410 billion spending bill on Tuesday, brushing aside Sen. John McCain's claim that President Barack Obama and Congress are merely conducting business as usual in a time of economic hardship.

McCain's attempt to strip out an estimated 8,500 earmarks failed on a vote of 63-32. The Arizona senator's proposal also would have cut roughly \$32 billion from the measure and kept spending at last year's levels in several federal agencies.

Last year's Republican presidential

candidate said both he and Obama pledged during the campaign to "stop business as usual in Washington," and he quoted the president as having said he would go line by line to make sure money was spent wisely.

The White House has said that Obama intends to sign the legislation, casting it as leftover business from 2008. Spokesman Robert Gibbs pledged on Monday the White House will issue new guidelines covering earmarks for future bills.

McCain's proposal drew the support of 32 Republicans and two Democrats, and the outcome reflected the enduring value of earmarks to lawmakers. While

polls routinely show these pet projects to be unpopular, local governments and constituents often covet them.

The maneuvering came on legislation to assure continued funding for several federal agencies past March 6. At \$410 billion, the bill represents an 8 percent increase over last year's spending levels, more than double the rate of inflation.

Sen. Dan Inouye, D-Hawaii, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said McCain's call to hold spending level with a year ago "doesn't account for inflation." As an example, he said some programs would have to be cut if federal workers were to receive a pay raise.

Here's a real, anonymous comment about a doctor from the Web site RateMDs.com:

"Very unhelpful, arrogant, did not listen and cut me off, seemed much too happy to have power (and abuse it!) over suffering people."

Segal said such postings say nothing about what should really matter to patients—a doctor's medical skills—and privacy laws and medical ethics prevent doctors from fighting back.

for good information" about doctors, but Internet reviews provide just the opposite, contends Dr. Jeffrey Segal, a North Carolina neurosurgeon who has made a business of helping doctors monitor and prevent online criticism.

Some sites "are little more than tabloid journalism without much interest in constructively improving practices," and their sniping comments can unfairly ruin a doctor's reputation, Segal said.

Docs seek gag orders to stop patients' reviews

CHICAGO (AP)—Some doctors have started fighting back against ugly Internet reviews by asking patients to abide by what are effectively gag orders that bar them from posting negative comments online. Physicians are taking action as online ratings services such as Zagat's and Angie's List grow in popularity and expand their reviews beyond restaurants and plumbers to include medical care.

"Consumers and patients are hungry

Burris appears to hurdle Blagojevich furor

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. (AP)—Roland Burris seems to have weathered the storm. Fellow Democrats are no longer demanding his resignation. The new Illinois governor has stopped calling for a special election to replace him. And party leaders who control the Senate and Illinois Legislature are reluctant to risk losing his seat to Republicans.

"He's not going to go anywhere. I'm convinced of that," said congressman Phil Hare, one of the first Illinois Democrats to call for Burris to step down.

Burris has been under intense scrutiny because of the circumstances of his appointment by disgraced former Gov. Rod Blagojevich and for changing his story about it multiple times.

But Burris has refused even to discuss resignation, showing some of the same defiance displayed by Blagojevich. The fledgling senator has endured in part by clamming up and letting supporters portray the issue in racial terms.

A Burris strategist has encouraged black leaders to rally around the only black member of the Senate. The group has made clear that

white Illinois politicians will pay a price for trying to oust Burris, who is serving the remainder of Barack Obama's term, which runs through 2010. "We're strong in our position because we want Roland Burris to remain in this seat until this term is over," Chicago Alderman Ed Smith said after meeting with the Illinois governor this week.

The approach seems to be working.

Gov. Pat Quinn dropped his call for rewriting state law to remove Burris. State legislative leaders have put the issue on the back burner. Senate leaders want to change the subject.

"We really ought to switch channels here to something that people really care about," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate.

That's quite a switch from just a few weeks ago, when Burris' political life seemed to be hanging by a thread.

Durbin, along with other politicians from both parties, had urged Burris to resign. The Senate ethics committee began looking into his conduct. Newspaper editorials called on him to step down or be replaced.



ACROSS THE NATION

Octuplet mom had past police, child welfare visits

WHITTIER, Calif. (AP)—Police say they've visited the homes of California octuplet mom Nadya Suleman several times in the last 14 months to respond to complaints about lost, trapped or poorly cared for children. Suleman gave birth to octuplets Jan. 26, and has six other children, ages 2 to 7. Whittier Police Officer Jason Zulke says in July 2008, police and the Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services visited Suleman's home in response to a complaint that the children appeared poorly cared for.

Zuhlke says both agencies determined the complaint was unfounded. Police also visited the home to free a child from a locked bedroom, and when Suleman called to report her 5-year-old daughter missing. The child had wandered off after her grandmother and was found safe.

Jury convicts Vegas man in toddler video sex case

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A man tracked down after a video of him sexually assaulting a 2-year-old girl was found in the Nevada desert was convicted Tuesday of that attack and another on a 6-year-old. Chester Arthur Stiles displayed no emotion

as guilty verdicts were read against him for 22 felonies, including sexual assault. He faces multiple life prison terms at sentencing, set for May 8. Nineteen of the charges stemmed from acts Stiles videotaped of himself with the toddler in 2003. The jury viewed the graphic video Friday. Outside the presence of the jury, Clark County District Court Judge Jennifer Togliatti called the recorded images "clearly child pornography in its most graphic form." A man gave the videotape to authorities in September 2007, five months after he found it hidden in a desert lot about 60 miles west of Las Vegas. He later pleaded guilty to conspiracy to obstruct a public officer for

the delay in turning in the video. With clear evidence of a sex crime on a toddler but neither the victim nor the abuser identified, investigators released images from the video in a nationwide hunt for both people.

Investigators point to immigrant in Levy slaying

WASHINGTON (AP)—An arrest warrant was issued Tuesday for an imprisoned Salvadoran immigrant in the killing of federal intern Chandra Levy, nearly eight years after the case captivated the country and ended the career of a congressman. The warrant accuses Ingmar Guandique (gwan-DEE'-kay) of killing Levy on May 1, 2001, as

she jogged through Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. Guandique, 27, is already serving time in a federal prison in Adelanto, Calif., for attacking two women in the same park in the weeks following Levy's disappearance. "We take solace in the fact that the search for the person responsible has ended and our daughter can finally truly rest in peace," Levy's parents, Bob and Susan Levy, said in a statement given to The Associated Press. "Thankfully the individual responsible for this most heinous and terrible crime will finally be held accountable for his actions and hopefully unable to hurt anyone else ever again."

Asia

Pakistan: Gunmen in rickshaws launched attack on cricket team



Rescue workers and relatives gather next to bodies of the police officers who died in the shooting incident, at a local hospital in Lahore, Pakistan on Tuesday, March, 3, 2009.

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—A team of heavily armed gunmen, some traveling in rickshaws, ambushed Sri Lanka's national cricket team Tuesday as it arrived for a match, killing six police guards and wounding seven players. The brazen attack heightened fears that Pakistan is becoming increasingly unstable.

The assault bore striking similarities to last year's three-day hostage drama in the Indian financial capital of Mumbai.

Working in pairs, the attackers in Lahore carried walkie-talkies and backpacks stuffed

with water, dried fruit and other high-energy food—a sign they anticipated a protracted siege and may have been planning to take the players hostage.

The bus sped through the ambush, but the gunmen's preparations indicated they may have been planning to hijack the vehicle, Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik told The Associated Press. None of the gunmen were killed and all apparently escaped into this teeming eastern city.

Even though the bus was peppered with 25 bullet holes, none of the cricket players were killed.

"We were all tucked under the seats," Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene said when the team arrived home in Colombo early Wednesday. "Our guys were getting hurt and screaming but we couldn't help each other. We were just hoping that we will not get hit."

"None of us thought that we would come alive out of the situation."

The attack was among the highest-profile terrorist strikes on a sports team since the 1972 Munich Olympics, when Palestinian militants killed 11 Israeli athletes.

Tauhidul Alam, was arrested in a Dhaka slum Tuesday along with four other border guards, all of whom have been charged with murder and arson, according to A.K. Azad, a spokesman for the elite police unit that carried out the raid.

Police paraded the suspects before reporters Tuesday night but the guards were not allowed to speak. Television footage showed them, dressed in sarongs and dirty shirts, slumped and limping before the cameras. Alam wore a signboard around his neck with his name spelled out.

Police arrest 'ringleader' of Bangladesh mutiny

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladeshi police said they arrested the suspected ringleader of a deadly insurrection by border guards, an attack the prime minister warned Tuesday was proof of "a conspiracy" against her fledgling government.

The army meanwhile continued to search for more than 1,000 border guards who fled after last week's mutiny at their headquarters in Dhaka in which the guards ambushed their commanding officers, leaving at least 69 people dead.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,

who came to power two months ago, has suggested the border guards had outside help in plotting their uprising, although she has not specified from whom. She told supporters Tuesday night that the attack proved there was "a conspiracy" against her.

"We must remain alert so no one can take away the rights of the people," Hasina said.

Parallel military and civilian investigations were launched Tuesday to determine the details of and reasons for the two-day mutiny that began Feb. 25.

The alleged ringleader, Syed

Afghan tech boom: Mullah embraces iPhone

KABUL (AP)—Mullah Abdul Salaam Zaeef is a former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan. He spent almost four years in Guantanamo. He wears a black turban, has a thick beard—and is never without his Apple iPhone.

The ultra-conservative Taliban banned modern technology like the Internet and TV during its harsh 1996-2001 rule, but those items have boomed in Afghanistan since the regime's 2001 ouster, helping to bring the country into the 21st century.

Zaeef, who reconciled with the Afghan government after being released from U.S. custody, says he uses his iPhone to surf the Internet and find difficult locations, employing the built-in GPS. He even checks his bank account balance online.

"It's easy and modern and I love it," Zaeef said as he pinched and pulled his fingers across the iPhone's touch screen last week. "This is necessary in the world today. People want to progress."

Beyond making life easier, some say the country's em-

brace of technology could help break the cycle of 30 years of relentless warfare. It puts at the tip of a finger many things that were strictly outlawed by Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar—music, movies, pictures of people and games like chess.

Young Afghans see the world differently from older Afghans because of their use of the Internet and mobile phones, and their participation in sports, said Shukria Barakzai, a female lawmaker and former newspaper editor.

World

Fidel: 2 leaders undone by 'honey of power'

HAVANA (AP)—Fidel Castro said Tuesday that two of his closest lieutenants had become seduced by "the honey of power," and hinted that they were demoted because their angling for leadership roles in a post-Castro Cuba had become unseemly.

Castro's column provides the first hint of why two of the government's most public faces were abruptly removed Monday in Cuba's largest leadership shake-up in decades.

Castro sniffed at suggestions

that President Raul Castro is putting his personal stamp on the government he inherited from his older brother a year ago.

He wrote that officials sought his advice on the changes, "even though there was no law" requiring his consent, and said international wire services were "rending their garments" and spreading rumors that "Fidel's men" were being replaced by "Raul's men."

He also wrote that most of the ousted officials didn't owe their jobs to him anyway. And

while he didn't name names, he said the "two most mentioned" were too eager to advance. That was almost certainly a reference to Felipe Perez Roque, out as foreign minister, and Vice President Carlos Lage, who was removed from his post as Cabinet secretary.

"The honey of power, for which they had not sacrificed at all, awoke in them ambitions that led to an undignified role," he wrote. "The external enemy was filled with illusions for them."

Parliament head sworn in as Guinea-Bissau leader

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau (AP)—The head of Guinea-Bissau's parliament took the oath of office as president Tuesday, a day after the man who ruled this tiny, coup-prone West African nation for two decades was gunned down in front of his wife inside their villa.

A hush fell over the parliament chamber as delegates stood, solemnly observing a moment of silence for President Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira and his long-standing rival, the head of the armed forces.

The two were assassinated in back-to-back attacks beginning Sunday night, when a bomb hidden underneath a staircase killed the army chief inside his office. His inner circle pointed the finger at Vieira and hours later, the president was assassinated.

On Tuesday, Head of Parliament Raimundo Pereira became the country's new interim president, quelling speculation the army had been planning a coup and marking a welcome continuation of democratic rule

after the two killings shocked the nation.

Speaking to several hundred lawmakers and visiting diplomats shortly afterward against the backdrop of a giant national flag hanging on the wall behind him, Pereira urged the military to respect civil rule.

"Since the era of democracy came to Guinea-Bissau, most presidents have been unable to finish their mandate," Pereira said. "My time in office will be temporary, but I will do my all to organize elections in time."

Refugees flood into Darfur camp after fighting

ZAMZAM CAMP, Sudan (AP)—The tall 14-year-old's parents were killed when government soldiers swept into his hometown in Darfur to chase out rebels. Then Arab militias went after the survivors. That's when the teenager fled atop a truck piled with mattresses and pots.

Mohammed Bahreddine arrived at this refugee camp last week after a two-day journey, joining more than 26,000 people from the region around the town of Muhajeria who have

flooded into the crowded camp in recent weeks.

It's one of the largest single flights of refugees in the past year in Darfur—a sign how civilians are bearing the brunt of a war that entered its seventh year in February. At least 10,000 more people from the Muhajeria area are expected at Zamzam soon, camp leaders say.

The fighting comes as the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands prepares to announce Wednesday whether

it will issue an arrest warrant for Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir, on charges of war crimes in Darfur.

Many residents and international aid workers in Darfur fear that if a warrant is issued, the government in Khartoum will lash out with greater violence in Sudan's vast, arid western territory, fueling the flow of refugees.

The government has sought to ease fears of any backlash, saying it will continue peace efforts in Darfur.

WORLD BRIEFS

Cologne building collapses; 3 missing, many escape

COLOGNE, Germany (AP)—Cologne's six-story city archive building groaned then collapsed in a pile of rubble Tuesday as people inside fled in panic. All managed to escape safely but police said three people were feared missing in other damaged buildings nearby. The archive building collapsed about 2 p.m., ripping open and dragging down parts of two adjacent buildings that contained apartments and an amusement arcade. A huge cloud of dust enveloped the site. Parents at a nearby fast-food outlet grabbed their children and ran for their cars. "I heard a giant bang and then suddenly saw this giant gray dust cloud," said Mustafa Goresme, 18, who watched from the restaurant. "It was like a Hollywood film."

"Everyone was in a real panic," said his friend, Mehmet Guerner. "We didn't know what had happened."

Russian oil tycoon's motions rejected at new trial

MOSCOW (AP)—Lawyers for Mikhail Khodorkovsky protested court actions Tuesday on the first day of a new trial that could keep the imprisoned former oil tycoon behind bars for decades. Defense attorneys said burly bailiffs interfered with their efforts to communicate with Khodorkovsky,

who was penned in a glass-walled courtroom cage, and the judge rejected a series of defense motions without explanation. The new trial of Khodorkovsky, the iconic victim of a court system critics say former President Vladimir Putin used as a political tool, will also test the stated commitment to the rule of law by Putin's protege and successor, President Dmitry Medvedev. At the start of Tuesday's proceedings, Khodorkovsky exchanged warm greetings with his co-defendant and calmly smiled from the cage.

Swiss mountain rescue plays out over Twitter

LONDON (AP)—An Alpine rescue in the Swiss Alps played out over the blogging Web site Twitter ended in tragedy after a snowboarder was found dead, British media and Swiss authorities said Tuesday. Police in the Swiss canton of Valais said a 29-year-old fell off a cliff in foul weather Monday evening near Verbier, a ski resort near the French border popular with British tourists. British media identified him as Rob Williams, an entrepreneur. Another snowboarder, identified as Jason Tavaria, also 29, was found unscathed nearby, police said. Williams had been on a trip with a group of fellow Internet entrepreneurs when he and Tavaria were separated from the group during a snow storm, according to the TechCrunch UK, a technology blog.

Environment

Tilapia production in the CNMI

Editor's Note: This article was written by Mike Ogo, the aquaculture extension agent for CREES at the Northern Marianas College.

Tilapia, *Oreochromis spp.*, is a freshwater finfish species endemic to Africa but now distributed widely around the world. Tilapia belongs to the Cichlidae family of fish and is known as mouth-brooders because they rear their larvae inside their mouth until such time that the larvae are capable of surviving on their own. Aquaculture and Tilapia can be traced back to ancient Egypt where hieroglyphics from that era depicts the culture of Tilapia in ancient times.

Tilapia's distribution throughout the world can be attributed to its ability to withstand fluctuations in water quality wherever it is cultured. Where other fishes succumb to low dissolved oxygen levels, high un-ionized ammonia levels, and other poor water quality parameters, Tilapia are hardy enough to withstand longer periods of poor water quality, making them ideal aquaculture culture species for first time aquaculture



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The entrance to the Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service's wet laboratory.

farmers. In the United States, Tilapia ranks as the third highest in terms of consumption of cultured, freshwater finfish behind channel catfish and trout. The white, flaky flesh of Tilapia

lends itself to high-end seafood dishes that command prices as high as \$7 per lb.

This history of Tilapia in the CNMI began with the introduction of *O. niloticus* in the 1950s

during the Trusteeship period. Tilapia fry were released in Lake Susupe and a lake in the island of Pagan in an attempt to commercialize fisheries and provide ready source of protein to the inhabitants of these islands. The Tilapia now thriving in Lake Susupe are the descendants of the fry released during the TT times, albeit the stock present there is less desirable for commercialization because of genetic issues.

In the mid-1990 when aquaculture was created as a section under the Agriculture and Life Sciences (now CREES) program at Northern Marianas College, the first hatch research project undertaken was to evaluate the viability of aquaponics production in the CNMI. Aquaponics in its simplest form is the production of fruiting or leafy vegetables using effluent from the production of Tilapia as a source of plant nutrient. The demonstration system that was installed at NMC was modeled after a similar system pioneered and tested by Dr. Jim Racocy of the University of the Virgin Islands. Like the CNMI, the U.S. Virgin Islands is small in landmass with limited fresh water source. Thus, the technology of intensive production of both fish and vegetables in limited space using recirculating systems that minimizes environmental degradation made sense 15 years ago and now. That aquaponics project led to the introduction of the red, hybrid Tilapia to the CNMI.

Other varieties of Tilapia were introduced with the start of aquaculture farms on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. To date, there are 12 Tilapia farmers in the CNMI with eight on Saipan, two on Rota and Tinian. In calendar



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The new NMC grouper raceway.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The new abalone research tanks at the wet laboratory of the NMC-CREES.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMC-CREES workers pose for the camera as they go about their daily routine.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Peter Arriola works on his home system.

year 2008, the Aquaculture and Fisheries Development of NMC CREES distributed 15,000 grey, red, and pearl white Tilapia fry to these 12 farmers. With the assistance of NMC CREES, we helped one farmer obtain a

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant in the amount of \$15,000 to produce Tilapia using artificial incubation for distribution to other farmers and to privatize the production of fry.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMC-CREES' wet laboratory is a biosecured facility to ensure that the place will be free of viruses, fungi, bacteria, parasites, and commensal.

DEQ brigade sets Saturday cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Makaka Beach in Garapan.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at 8am, behind the ABC store. Come join us and "Pick it Up!"

Volunteers will split into groups, cleaning north and

south of Makaka Beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

This is a cleanup that should not be missed, so join DEQ's cleanup brigade and "Pick It

Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy.

Last month, 60 volunteers removed 1180 lbs of debris from Coral Ocean Point. The DEQ cleanup brigade began in 1996 and continues to maintain clean, healthy beaches.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Life & Style

SHANGHAI DAY 3

Learning the ropes

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

I have never been a fan of tea. Something about it just seems off to me. Why not just drink water or go for the harder stuff like coffee?

But I couldn't visit China without trying the stuff. The first stop on my and KSPN2 news reporter Lannie Walker's whirlwind tour Monday was the Central Lake Teahouse in Old Town Shanghai. There we sat and watched as a woman went through the

traditional process of brewing tea, taking about 10 minutes pouring water over various teapots and cups before serving us. It was definitely more detailed than simply sticking a tea bag inside warm water. And I actually enjoyed the taste.

With four girls (Lannie and I had two tour guides with us), it's hard to go anyplace and not do a little window shopping or in-store browsing.

Old Town offered a great chance to get some cheap knickknacks. Lunch at a Shanghai-style Chinese restaurant was another interesting experience, as I continued to try to master the art of using chopsticks.

I apparently continue to scream "tourist." As I listened intently to a tour guide at the Jade Buddha Temple—the most popular temple in Shanghai—I'm led to a special "one-time-only art exhibit."

I feel honored for the privilege and lucky I just happened to come to Shanghai at the right time. He pointed out some pieces and I rubbed a few Buddha bellies for good luck and good fortune, before the volunteer led me to an artist who uses only his fingernails and the side of his hand to create elaborate pictures depicting Shanghai and other parts of China.



KRISTI EATON

At the Jade Buddha Temple, a family offers boxes representing others that have passed away to Buddha. The boxes are full of fake money.

I'm immediately impressed. Only five people in China can create such work, I'm told. I contemplate spending loads of money to buy a piece, as does Lannie. Then it slowly comes back to me that I've seen similar techniques displayed on streets throughout major American cities. I decided against the purchase and began to walk away, at which point the volunteer raced after me and asked my price. I gave him a number significantly lower than the original price, and the artist declined. By this point I wondered how valuable the work really was as I walk away for good, but not before the artist found it in his heart to give me a break and sell at my price. Too late.

Funnily enough, as I exited the "one-time-only" art exhibit room, I'm led to a gift shop where one can buy the cheap knickknacks that represent China—fans, dresses and posters with Chinese characters. I'm proud of myself for not falling for the trap, but a little embarrassed it took me so long to get there.



KRISTI EATON

The Yuyuan Garden inside Old Town Shanghai.



KRISTI EATON



KRISTI EATON

Tea leaves line the wall of the Central Lake Teahouse in Old Town Shanghai.

Preparing tea in China is an intricate process involving several teapots and cups.



KRISTI EATON

Chinese green tea.



A view of Old Town Shanghai.

KRISTI EATON

Stephen King's agent pleased at e-book debut

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—It's not the sensation of his first effort, but Stephen King's latest e-adventure is another best-seller.

King's agent, Ralph Vicinanza, said Tuesday that downloads of King's novella "UR," available only as an e-book and released to coincide with the launch of Amazon's upgraded Kindle reader, have reached "five figures" after barely three weeks on the market.

In 2000, in the early years of digital texts, King's novella "Riding the Bullet" was downloaded hundreds of thousands of times, overwhelming Amazon.com and other online sites.

Amazon.com has declined to offer any specific numbers for sales of the Kindle or for individual books, although publishers have said that popular titles sell in the thousands or better.

Vicinanza said in a telephone interview that Amazon would not be providing specific numbers until 60 days after the Feb. 12 release, but added: "We've been told that they're in the five figures already."

"We're excited. They're happy, we're happy and from the initial information that we're getting it seems to be a success."

As of Tuesday afternoon, "UR" was No. 18 on Amazon's list of Kindle best-sellers.

Vicinanza had approached King with the idea of writing a story for release as an e-book as a way to "create some excitement" in electronic publishing at a time when the book industry is going through tough times.

The New York-based agent recommended the strategy even though the Kindle and competing devices account for no more than 1 percent of overall book sales. "UR" eventually will be made available in print, he said.

The Kindle 2, a slimmed-down model with upgraded components and storage capacity, went on sale Feb. 9 for \$359. The gadget downloads books, newspaper stories and blog posts over a wireless network.

"UR," available as a download for \$2.99, is about a college English instructor whose pink Kindle allows him to access new books by famous dead authors as well as newspapers that tell of a future event that he is compelled to try to forestall.

While some readers have likened the book to an infomercial for Amazon's pricey device, Vicinanza says any King fan recognizes how often cars and other products appear in his books.

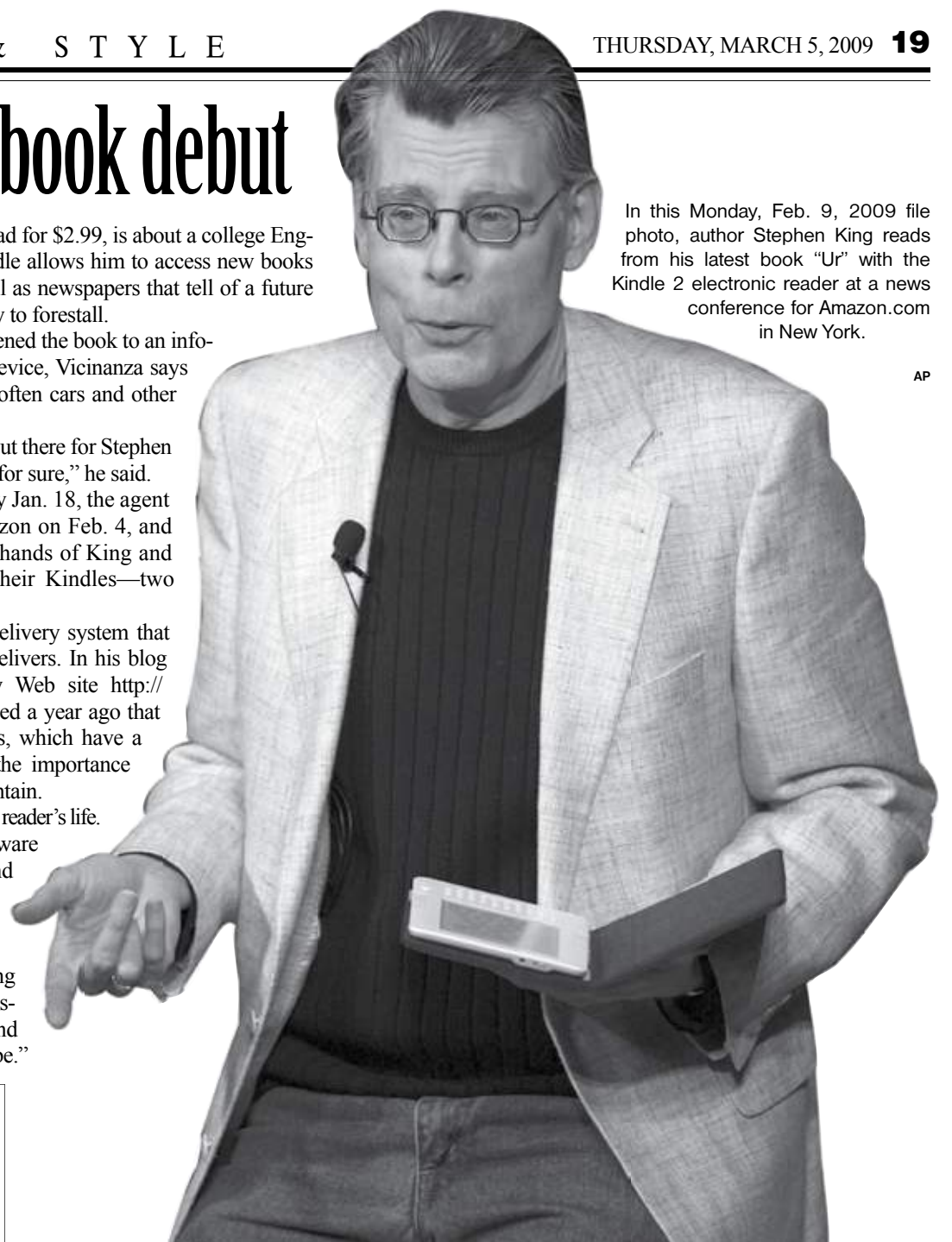
"There isn't enough money out there for Stephen King to do product placement, for sure," he said.

King began writing the story Jan. 18, the agent had it edited and sent to Amazon on Feb. 4, and the edited proofs were in the hands of King and his agent—sent, in fact, to their Kindles—two days later.

King sees the Kindle as a delivery system that matters less than the story it delivers. In his blog on the Entertainment Weekly Web site <http://www.ew.com>, the author opined a year ago that Kindles will not replace books, which have a permanence that accentuates the importance of the ideas and stories they contain.

But they can, he wrote, enrich a reader's life.

"For a while I was very aware that I was looking at a screen and bopping a button instead of turning pages. Then the story simply swallowed me, as the good ones always do," King wrote. "It became about the message instead of the medium, and that's the way it's supposed to be."



In this Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 file photo, author Stephen King reads from his latest book "Ur" with the Kindle 2 electronic reader at a news conference for Amazon.com in New York.

AP

A comeback for Siegfried and Roy on ABC's '20/20'



In this image released by ABC, "20/20" correspondent Elizabeth Vargas, left, is shown with Roy Horn, center, and Siegfried Fischbacher, who is holding a baby leopard named Java during an interview Feb. 11, 2009 in Las Vegas.

NEW YORK (AP)—It was no illusion.

Legendary illusionists Siegfried and Roy performed last weekend for the first time in more than five years, sharing the stage with the Bengal tiger that had ended their careers, for what they said was one last encore.

"They really wanted a final chance to get on the stage and say good night, goodbye, and thank you to all the fans who have supported them so devotedly," says ABC News' Elizabeth Vargas. "And they wanted to take this risk."

On a special edition of the "20/20" newsmagazine, Vargas reports on their remarkable performance at Las Vegas' Bellagio Hotel and Casino.

In the hourlong program (which was not available for preview), Vargas also visits

with Roy Horn and Siegfried Fischbacher at home, and hears about the grueling five years endured by both of them since Montecore, a massive white tiger, brutally mauled Horn during a 2003 performance at The Mirage, where the duo had been booked for 13 years.

"Siegfried & Roy: The Magic Returns" airs Friday at 9 p.m. EST on ABC.

"Up to now, the focus, understandably, has been on Roy and the catastrophic injuries he suffered," says Vargas. Even after cheating death, "he was told by doctors he would never walk or talk again, and he's doing both."

"But an unreported part of the story was what Siegfried went through. He suffered from something we know as 'caregivers syndrome'—when people who take care of others

forget to take care of themselves.

"Roy, for all his improvements, is still terribly, terribly injured. But Siegfried has had struggles of his own. He really lived for the stage, and then it was taken away in one moment."

"He's honest in talking about how, after that, he suffered from severe depression."

A year ago, the pair surprised their public by announcing a one-time-only comeback: a brief charity show to benefit the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, which will treat brain disorders like those Horn (now 64) suffers and is set to open in Las Vegas later this year in a building designed by famed architect Frank Gehry.

A signature trick by these veteran performers, it began with Fischbacher (now 69) dressed in white robes and a mask standing inside a cage that was then draped. As Horn removed the cloak seconds later, Fischbacher appeared across stage, a hulking tiger having taken his place.

"I asked them both, 'Why do this?'" marvels Vargas. But after spending time with them, she says, the answer may be found in "the power of their friendship and partnership."

Kennedy Center showcases artists with disabilities

WASHINGTON (AP)—Artists with disabilities from around the world will convene in 2010 at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for the largest ever showcase of their work, the center announced Tuesday.

The festival will feature appearances by Claire Danes, Marlee Matlin and comedian Brett Leake, who appears regularly on PBS, as well as theater, musical acts and an art exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution, to mark the center's 2009-2010 season. It also celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Organizers said they hope the International VSA arts Festival in June 2010 can change perceptions of disabilities by highlighting what people can accomplish, despite their challenges.

"The single biggest challenge people with disabilities continue to face is stigma," said Soula Antoniou, president of VSA arts—formerly Very Special Arts—a nonprofit Kennedy Center affiliate devoted to artists with disabilities. The festival will focus on the "largest underserved community in the world," which includes 54 million Americans and 650 million people with disabilities around the world, she said.

Danes, who will play an autistic woman in the upcoming HBO biopic "Temple Grandin," will introduce a performance at the festival created by her family friend, choreographer Tamar

Rogoff. A dance created by Rogoff for the festival includes a dancer with cerebral palsy.

The festival is part of a full programming slate announced Tuesday by Kennedy Center President Michael Kaiser, despite a \$10 million reduction in the center's \$160 million budget due to declining private donations and endowment revenue. Kaiser trimmed the budget by 6 percent—including \$30,000 in savings by eliminating free coffee for the staff—to avoid any cuts to programming, he said.

"Thirty-thousand dollars is a modern dance engagement," he said, adding that coffee was a sacrifice his staff could accept.

The performance slate brings the beginning of a two-year "Focus on Russia" series. It will include performances by the Mariinsky Ballet and the Mariinsky Opera and Orchestra from St. Petersburg performing "War and Peace," in February 2010. The tale of Russian society during the Napoleonic Era will include more than 200 people on stage "and will be a technical nightmare," Kaiser said, drawing laughs from an audience of staff members.

The series also will feature Russian soloists and conductors performing with the National Symphony Orchestra beginning in November.

Unlike some other cultures the center has explored in recent years, including China, Japan and a current festival

of Arab arts and culture, Russia and its arts are familiar to many Americans.

"We have such an affection for Russia," Kaiser said. "I think it's time to celebrate that when there's a lot of political stuff going on."

The theater season will present three plays about opera in 2010 by acclaimed playwright Terrence McNally, including the new play "Golden Age." The show was co-produced with the Philadelphia Theatre Company and commissioned for the Kennedy Center.

The season also will feature Cate Blanchett starring for three weeks in "A Streetcar Named Desire" this October and November.

At a time when many arts organizations across the country are canceling their seasons or cutting performances because of the financial crisis, the Kennedy Center recently began offering free consulting for struggling arts groups. More than 250 groups have signed up for the free financial advice in the past three weeks, Kaiser said.

Kaiser said the groups include some with budgets as small as \$20,000 per year, in need of financial help from a \$50 million fund that was included in the federal economic stimulus package for the National Endowment for the Arts.

"You realize how un-elitist the arts are across the country," he said.

Spears returns in first concert tour in 5 years

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Britney Spears fans lined up outside the New Orleans Arena hours before the start of the pop star's first concert tour in five years.

They bought T-shirts at red-and-white striped tents set up outside the arena where Spears' "Circus" tour was to get going under way Tuesday night.

"I love her," said 18-year-old Haley McInnis of Gonzales, La., wearing a circus-inspired ensemble that included a top hat and black high-heeled boots.

McInnis was among dozens of Louisiana fans out to support their hometown superstar, who in the past five years has gone through more tumult than many endure in a lifetime: She's been married and divorced, had two kids, gone to rehab, gone through a custody battle, found herself briefly committed, and been so out of control that her father, Jamie Spears, was appointed by a court to oversee her personal and professional affairs indefinitely.

But over the past year, Spears' life and career has rebounded. Her "Circus" CD, released in December, has already sold more than 1.3 million copies, and she's had two hits off the CD, "Womanizer" and "Circus."

"She's so strong, stronger than a lot of people give her credit for," McInnis said. "A lot of people wouldn't have come back from what she's been through."

Spears' comeback has been carefully orchestrated, beginning with well-received appearances on the sitcom "How I Met Your Mother" last year to her comeback appearance at the MTV Video Music Awards last fall following her disastrous performance on the awards show in 2007. She has given few interviews, and those that have been granted have been heavily managed.

Tuesday's "Circus" tour, which takes Spears to 27 cities in the United States



AP

In this Dec. 2, 2008 file photo, singer Britney Spears performs on ABC's "Good Morning America" show at the Big Apple Circus in New York.

before heading to Europe in June, is the pop star's biggest opportunity to connect with her still formidable fan base.

"We're so happy she's back," said 16-year-old Justin Scarbrough of New Orleans, wearing a T-shirt he designed himself that bears Spears' image and the words "I Support Britney Spears."

The tour is to feature a mix of her new material and some of the hits that made

her one of the world's top-selling artists.

On Monday, MySpace Celebrity released snippets of video that gave a glimpse into what her show would look like: The circus-themed extravaganza includes dancers dangling from high wires, sultry dance moves and whip-wielding Spears dressed as the ringmaster, finally in control of her own circus.

Penn says he assumes Calif. gov will honor Milk

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Still fresh from winning the best-actor Oscar for playing gay rights hero Harvey Milk, Sean Penn expressed confidence Tuesday that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would sign a bill officially recognizing Milk's birthday in California even though he vetoed it last year.

Appearing at a news conference with the bill's author, state Sen. Mark Leno, and several of Milk's contemporaries who were featured in the movie "Milk," Penn said he did not want to insult the intelligence of a fellow actor by expecting Schwarzenegger to veto the measure again.

"I would never assume such ignorance as for him to not have revised his (position)," Penn said, staring into a bank of TV cameras at a cafe that shares the name of Milk's favorite opera, "Tosca." "I have too much respect for him to be able to do that."

Leno's bill would require Schwarzenegger, who starred in the "Terminator" movies and other blockbusters, to establish May 22 of each year as a "day of significance." Unlike an official holiday, Harvey Milk Day would not give state workers the day off, but schools would be encouraged to conduct lessons on the late San Francisco

supervisor's life and legacy.

Milk was an outspoken gay rights advocate at a time when coming out carried substantial personal and professional risks. He was assassinated along with Mayor George Moscone by another city supervisor in 1978.

After last year's measure passed both houses of the Legislature, conservative groups lobbied Schwarzenegger to veto it, saying they objected to having gay issues taught in schools.

In his September veto message, the governor said that while he respected the bill's intent, he thought Milk's "contributions should continue to be recognized at the local level by those who were most impacted by his contributions."

Spokeswoman Rachel Cameron said Schwarzenegger has not taken a position on the revived legislation and would not until it reaches his desk. Leno estimated that would happen by the end of August.

Penn said that based on the biographical research he did to portray Milk, he thought the late leader's story of self-acceptance and sacrifice carried valuable lessons.

"I trust that Gov. Schwarzenegger is an increasingly reasonable man and that he understands that passing on prejudices ... that surround this issue and so many others is poisonous to future generations," Penn said.

'The Bachelor' dumps fiancée Melissa for runner-up

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Bachelor" had a change of heart, leaving his fiancée in a lurch and viewers up in arms.

Jason Mesnick, a 32-year-old single dad, proposed to Melissa Rycroft in Monday night's season finale of the ABC reality dating show. But in the subsequent "After the Final Rose" special, taped six weeks after Mesnick's proposal, he told Rycroft he was dumping her because he still had feelings for the runner-up, Molly Malaney.

Hurt and angry, Rycroft said: "Don't call me and don't talk to me. Leave me alone."

Mesnick said he hated himself for what he was doing. Rycroft gave her ring back and walked off stage.

Then Malaney came out and she agreed to give Mesnick another shot at love.

Every season of "The Bachelor" promises to be "the most dramatic yet," but the results of the Mesnick love triangle are sparking passionate discussion on Internet message boards and forums.

A post-finale recap on Entertainment Weekly's Web site called Mesnick "an even bigger jackass than we thought." More than 1,700 comments have been posted in response, many lashing out at the Seattle account executive for burning Rycroft in such a jarring fashion. Especially since Rycroft, a 25-year-old sales representative from Dallas, had professed her love for him and excitement over being stepmom to Mesnick's 3-year-old son, Ty, from a previous marriage.

"Jason is such a loser and Melissa deserves a guy who is not a dog in disguise," said a commenter named "sprunginto." "With regard to this finale

being better or worse than any other, it was really not a whole lot different except that the love birds managed to fall out of love in less time than usual, allowing ABC to milk this as a 'shocker.'"

Mesnick even alienated one of his most public cheerleaders: Elisabeth Hasselbeck, who lashed out at him and the show Tuesday on "The View."

"I really thought he was a good guy and he had his act together. ... I am DONE with 'The Bachelor!'" said Hasselbeck, aching for those "three hours of my life I will never get back."

Mesnick said on Jimmy Kimmel's talk show Monday that his relationship with Rycroft took a turn for the worse when production ended and they returned to reality. He said the chemistry was off and Rycroft "knew exactly what was going on" before her rejection at the "After the Final Rose" taping.

"I lived my honest, true life, and I developed feelings for two girls," he said, defending the switch.

ABC representative Cathy Rehl said Mesnick was unavailable for an interview Tuesday. Rehl did not respond to interview requests for "Bachelor" host Chris Harrison and producers.

Monday's two-hour season ender was the highest-rated program of the night with 15.45 million viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research. It's the most-watched "Bachelor" finale since November 2003, when Bob Guiney picked Estella Gardinier. (That relationship fizzled out and Guiney married soap-opera actress Rebecca Budig in the summer of 2004.)

Part Two of "After The Finale Rose" is slated to air Tuesday at 10 p.m. EST.



AP

In this image released by ABC, Jason Mesnick, left, selects Melissa Rycroft to propose to on the season finale of "The Bachelor," airing Monday, March 2, 2009 on ABC.



AP

Actor Sean Penn, at left, applauds alongside Sen. Mark Leno, D-Calif., during a news conference lobbying the state of California to recognize Harvey Milk Day in San Francisco, Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

Lil Rounds dazzles 'American Idol' judges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lil Rounds has made a big impression on the "American Idol" judges.

Judge Kara DioGuardi proclaimed that Rounds, the 23-year-old mother of three from Memphis, Tenn., was a "powerhouse" after she performed Mary J. Blige's "Be Without You" the end of the Fox singing competition Tuesday. Simon Cowell described her performance in a word: brilliant.

Cowell told Rounds he thinks she has "great, great prospects" in the competition.

Rounds was the last to perform in the final group of 12 singers out of the 36 semifinalists. The judges also heaped praise on Felicia Barton, Jorge Nunez, Ju'Not Joyner and Scott MacIntyre.

The top three vote-getters will be revealed during Wednesday's live episode.



AP
In this picture provided by the Fox Broadcasting Company, Lil Rounds performs in front of the judges on the American Idol reality television show on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

UK university launches MA on the Beatles

LONDON (AP)—The city of Liverpool already has a Beatles museum and its airport is named after John Lennon. Now a local university says it rolling out a graduate program entirely devoted to the Fab Four.

Liverpool Hope University said Tuesday that its new master's program, "The Beatles, Popular Music and Society," would give students the opportunity to analyze music and culture through the band's work.

"There have been over 8,000 books about the Beatles but there has never been serious academic study and that is what we are going to address," said Mike Brocken, who is directing the program at the university, which is in the band's hometown in northwestern England.

Brocken said students would be expected to study the Beatles' songs, stardom, hometown and cultural impact through four 12-week courses and a dissertation.

Brocken said studying the band was really a way of examining society as a whole.

"If popular music is about anything, it's about people," he said. "If we look at popular culture, it simply provides us with a very complex mirror of ourselves."

Disney Channel enrolls 'High School Musical 4'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Disney Channel is going back to school with "High School Musical 4."

The fourth iteration of the popular musical franchise will begin production later this year and premiere in 2010.

The Disney Channel said in a statement Tuesday that the new movie will introduce a new cast of characters and

will focus on a cross-town school rivalry.

"High School Musical" drew an audience of 7.7 million when it debuted in 2006. "High School Musical 2" more than doubled viewership of the original with 17.2 million in 2007. "High School Musical 3" was released in theaters in 2008 and made more than \$40 million its opening weekend.

Reports: Michael Jackson seeks comeback in London

LONDON (AP)—Michael Jackson was due to make a "special announcement" at a London music venue this week—expected to be confirmation of his first live concerts in years. British media said Tuesday that the troubled King of Pop will announce a string of dates at the city's O2 Arena.

Celena Aponte, spokeswoman for the venue's operator, AEG Live, said Jackson had arrived in London on Tuesday and would appear at a press conference at the arena on Thursday afternoon.

The days of multimillion-selling albums like "Thriller" are long gone. Jackson has kept a low profile since he was acquitted of child molestation charges in California in 2005. There have been reports of financial woes, legal troubles and health problems.

Jackson's last live performance in Britain was at the 2006 World Music Awards. He was scheduled to perform "We Are the World" but only managed a few lines before leaving the stage. Jackson was due to appear in a London court in November to contest a libel action for breach of contract brought by a Bahraini prince. The dispute was settled out of court at the last minute and Jackson did not appear.

The O2, formerly the Millennium Dome, is becoming a venue of choice for comeback performers. Britney Spears plays there eight nights in June, and Prince did a 21-day series of shows in 2007.

Auctioneer to sell score to Hitchcock's 'Psycho'

LONDON (AP)—The heart-stopping score to Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho," including the screeching music to the film's famous shower scene, is being put up for sale, British auction house Bonhams said Tuesday.

The 20-page manuscript is among a collection of composer Bernard Herrmann's works and books being auctioned off on March 24.

The score, about half of which was written in black ink on Ricordi music paper, carries the notes to the slashing, shrieking violin sounds that play when a knife-wielding killer bursts in on actress Janet Leigh as she showers in the Bates Motel.

The shower stabbing scene in Hitchcock's 1960 thriller stands out as the movie's most memorable scene, in large part because of Herrmann's startling sound.

The icy noise of a bow being repeatedly sliced across strings deftly mirrored the stabbing of the titular psychopath's knife, but Herrmann said the cue was extremely simple.

"Violins did it!" Herrmann was quoted as saying in an extract from the book "Alfred Hitchcock and the Making of 'Psycho'" carried by Bonhams.

"It's just the strings doing something every violinist does all day long when he tunes up," Herrmann said. "The effect is as common as rocks."

Bonhams said Tuesday that the score was expected to go for up to \$56,000. It was consigned for sale by Herrmann's third wife, Norma.

Early screening for disease can prevent kidney failure

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I was a healthy 12-year-old girl in junior high, sociable and energetic with no cares in the world, until one day my mother noticed I wasn't my usual self. I was tired and had no interest in any activities. Frustrated, she encouraged me to try out for my school's volleyball team.

What was supposed to be a routine physical for the team turned into a life-changing experience. I did not end up making the team. Instead I was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. My test results showed that I had too much protein in my urine. After more tests, I was told I was in kidney failure.

I was only 12, and I didn't understand why this was happening to me. Nobody was expecting the news we got that day. The doctors told my parents that I would need to go on dialysis or have a kidney transplant and we should start looking for a donor.

A urine test was never part of any of my annual checkups. But protein in the urine is one of the earliest signs of kidney disease. That simple test might have prevented me from losing both kidneys.

Nearly 100,000 men, women and children are now on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant. One hundred people are added to the list -- and 17 die -- every day. With early detection kidney disease can be prevented. So please urge your readers to get screened now and screened often.

KLARISSA RAMIREZ, MINNEAPOLIS

DEAR KLARISSA: Thank you for your letter. I was, frankly, shocked to learn from it that kidney disease could strike a person at such a tender age. I'm pleased to pass along your important message.

Readers, March is National Kidney Month -- and March 12 is World Kidney Day. The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) has a screening program called KEEP, which stands for Kidney Early Evaluation Program. On World Kidney Day, KEEP will offer FREE screenings in cities across the country for people at risk for kidney disease.

If you or a family member has diabetes or high blood pressure, or if there is a history of kidney disease in your family, visit kidney.org to learn more and locate a screening near you, or call the National Kidney Foundation at 1-800-622-9010.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughters feel my husband and I favor their younger brother. Our son has some social and developmental issues. We have explained to the girls that their circumstances are different and have even had his psychologist explain the reasons to them.

My middle daughter says it is just an "excuse," and she feels slighted. What can I do to help them see that we love them all and want the best for them, as well as to treat them fairly?

CHALLENGED MOM IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR CHALLENGED MOM: One conversation with the psychologist obviously wasn't enough for at least one of your daughters, and my first suggestion is that you and your husband consider some ongoing family therapy for a while.

If your younger daughter is old enough, involve her while you are taking care of her brother. This will help her see for herself how time-consuming it really is, and what your responsibilities are as the mother of a child with special needs.

Equally important, if at all possible, arrange for respite care for your son once or twice a month to allow you to have some special one-on-one time with your daughters. Perhaps then they will feel less slighted.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)



AP
In this picture provided by the Fox Broadcasting Company, Lil Rounds performs in front of the judges on the American Idol reality television show on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

1 1/2 BOXES TO GO, AND I'LL HAVE ENOUGH "PROOF OF PURCHASE SEALS" TO ORDER THE PROPELLER BEANIE THEY OFFER.

Garfield®

WHAT ARE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?

YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING AWFUL TO ME, HAVEN'T YOU?

YAAAAAH!

JUST PLAYING WITH YOUR PARANOIA

Adam@home

DAD, MOM SAYS YOU TOOK PIANO LESSONS WHEN YOU WERE A BOY.

YEP, I REGRET NOT FOLLOWING THROUGH ON THAT.

WHY? IT'S BORING.

BORING? PLAYING AN INSTRUMENT IS A BEAUTIFUL TALENT.

LIKE BEING ABLE TO GET 15 PEANUT BUTTER CUPS IN YOUR MOUTH?

WELL, THERE'S TALENT... AND THEN THERE'S MAGIC.

The Duplex

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN FIVE YEARS?

DANG! IS SEEING INTO THE FUTURE REQUIRED FOR THIS JOB?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Typeface choice

5 Quest

9 Witty one

12 Open a crack

13 Terrible guy?

14 Rd.

15 Plumbers' job?

17 X rating?

18 Stages a protest, of a sort

19 On the qui vive

21 "And I should care ... why?"

22 "Napoleon Dynamite" star

24 Sore

27 Distant

28 As well

31 As well

32 Sub-machine gun

33 "— Town"

34 November responsibility

36 Fellows

DOWN

1 Cry like a baby

2 California community

3 Tardy

4 Stylish

5 Bill-board

6 Mendes or

7 Pack away

8 Massage

9 ABBA hit

10 State with certainty

11 Fellow city

16 Carnival area

20 Grazing

22 Mists

23 Ms. Brockovich

24 Off-roader (Abbr.)

25 Bill's partner

26 Trouble

27 Sulk angrily

29 Bottom line

30 Scepter ornament

35 Listening device

37 Local ordinances

39 Constitutional

40 Take blades

41 Pop blades

42 Item on stage

43 Probability

44 Related to

35-Down

45 Pianist Peter

46 Got bigger

49 Eggs

50 Fleur-de—

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 3-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jake Lloyd, 20; Kevin Connolly, 35; John Frusciante, 39; Samantha Eggar, 70

Happy Birthday: Whether you are moving, getting ready to buy or sell or just need to make some changes at home, now is the time. This is a perfect way to spend your time and extra cash. Securing your home base will ensure your future and help you develop better relationships with your neighbors. It's all about making life less stressful. Your numbers are 2, 10, 18, 26, 35, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let a conversation with someone upset you or cause you to be defensive. Problems with work and someone you have to deal with are likely to develop. Listen but don't retaliate. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't question a decision once you've made it. A change of location or position is likely. Someone else's dilemma may be dropped in your lap. Be professional and deal with it promptly. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will lend you a hand. There is much to gain from interacting with other people. Your strong beliefs and determination to help and make reforms will bring you recognition. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't wait for things to unfold in front of you. Change is good. Someone you love may not like your method of getting what you want but he or she doesn't understand what you are up against or are trying to accomplish. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Whether you are taking a trip, engaging in a new relationship or getting involved in a new business or financial venture, excess is apparent. Before you decide to jump in with both feet, make sure that whatever you agree to is something you can handle long-term. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have to be smart and ahead of everyone else in these times of economic and emotional strife. The better prepared you are, the better you will do. A very interesting and unusual deal will be on the table, involving both your personal and professional future. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can bet someone will try to derail you emotionally regarding your future plans and prospects. Before that happens, jump in and take what you want. Now is not the time to waffle or procrastinate. Love is on the line and change is upon you. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You cannot take the chance of letting someone steal your thunder when you are so close to achieving your long-time goals. Don't trust anyone making noise about helping out. Actions will be what count. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The unfamiliar is your enemy right now, so stick to your own strategy. Problems with authority figures or rules and regulations will develop if you haven't done your homework. Be prepared to backtrack if you must. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let a love issue or problems with children

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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or relatives bog you down and cause you to miss out on something of value. Balance your personal and professional life. A change in the way you do things will help improve your financial situation. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Socializing or getting involved in something that interests you will lead to intimacy with someone who shares your beliefs. A creative outlet will develop into something that will help you expand your friendships. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Make some adjustments at home to help you feel more comfortable and less stressed. Implement products or services that will make your life easier and your chores lighter. Open your doors and entertain friends or family. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, caring and passionate about tradition, home and family. You are cautious but curious and reluctant but determined. You are a high achiever.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/05

3/04

WONDERWORD® By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SERBIAN RESTAURANTS Solution: 5 letters

P E D Y D C V E S H A L I C A
D A T I O E E E U C E B R A B
E S S R N G S V E D S C T K I
R H B T O N H L U S A H U E C
E A R R E T E U A D L E A R I
W E S A E T R R R E A E R U C
E C H E F H E E S T M S K B P
K P N A F A O K H R I E R C A
S A O O O J O R A C M S E U V
T M C P C V A J I K A R U I E
A O M A A A O S C E I S A S C
P S J C M R B G L B N F S I L
I A H A P A A G O A A T L N A
C K A J M A K E V B S T A E M
I A S A U S A G E G R I L L B

Yesterdays SUDOKU Answer

5 9 1 7 2 6 4 8 3
2 4 8 1 3 9 7 6 5
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235- NEWS

Howard scores 21 as Magic beat Suns



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Dwight Howard had 21 points and eight rebounds in a bruising battle with Shaquille O'Neal, and the Orlando Magic beat the Phoenix Suns 111-99 on Tuesday night.

Rashard Lewis had 29 points and Hedo Turkoglu scored 22 for the Magic, who overcame a season-high 24 turnovers.

O'Neal finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds, outmuscling his first NBA team for most of the night before he lost his cool late, again drawing boos by the Orlando crowd. His technical foul with 3:38 left contributed to nine straight points for the Magic that gave Orlando a 10-point lead to put the game out of reach.

Jason Richardson had 27 points, and Steve Nash added 20 points for Phoenix after missing the last three games with a sprained right ankle.

The past and present Magic big men mixed it up most of the night.

With nearly 600 pounds of All-Stars banging on the inside, bodies were flying. On one play in the third quarter Howard backed down O'Neal, sent him to the floor and dunked over the 325-pounder while O'Neal rolled under Rafer Alston and Matt Barnes, wiping them out like bowling pins.

The back-and-forth jostling wasn't just physical. The two were trash-talking throughout, with each turning up the lip—and the intensity—after every dunk.

Howard came out in the third with force, scoring eight points before picking up his fourth foul with 3:36 remaining in the period. O'Neal would return the favor, dunking twice in the period to put the Suns ahead 81-78 at the end of the third.

Howard converted a 3-point play on a foul by O'Neal to tie the score at 88 midway through the fourth, putting the thunder-stick pounding home crowd into a frenzy. With the focus on the two

centers, the guards used the space on the perimeter to take over.

Richardson's 3-pointer gave the Suns back the lead before Turkoglu and Lewis hit consecutive shots from beyond the arc that gave the Magic a 94-91 lead. Then things got testy.

Howard dribbled down the lane and was fouled on the shot by Nash, while O'Neal stood with his hands straight up protesting the call. O'Neal persisted there was no contact between Howard and Nash, and was called for a technical foul that spurred the Magic's late run.

The two have used the moniker Superman, with O'Neal long claiming he was Orlando's first man of steel.

The recent resurgence of O'Neal, who scored 33 in a win over the Lakers on Sunday and 45 in a victory over Toronto last week, was evident for most of the night. He turns 37 on Friday, but his play of late has resembled the slender center—whom Howard has drawn comparisons—drafted by Orlando in 1992.

The duo turned it into a big-man battle early.

O'Neal rejected Howard's hook shot in the Magic's first possession, sending the ball out to Leandro Barbosa for an easy layup on the other end. Three possessions later Howard would answer, beating O'Neal down the floor for a monstrous one-hand dunk.

Howard was called for his third foul on an illegal pick with 6:32 left in the half, and Phoenix took advantage in his absence. Nash's 3-pointer capped a 12-2 Suns run after Howard went out, but Orlando would comeback with a 11-4 spurt to close the half and tie the score at 56-all.

Pistons 100, Nuggets 95

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Detroit fans rose to their feet for a former favorite, then had a reason to cheer the current Pistons, too.

Chauncey Billups scored a season-high 34 points in his re-

game transgression" Sunday against Indiana, declining to provide details of what he did.

During a timeout against the Pacers, though, Karl said Anthony became the first player in his two-plus decades as a coach to stay on the court after being told he was being taken out of the game.

"There's a thin line between passion and an aggressive want to be on the court and emotional immaturity," Karl said. "It happens all the time. Coaches snap and act like an idiot on the sideline because of the emotional stress of the game."

"Our mantra and mission statement from the beginning of the season to be more discipline, to be more professional and to do things the right way."

Karl, though, wishes Anthony didn't merit a suspension.

"It's not what I want," Karl said.



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard, right, collides with Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal (32) as he tries to get to the basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

turn to the Palace, but the Pistons came away with the victory against the Carmelo Anthony-less Denver Nuggets.

Tayshaun Prince scored 23 points for the Pistons and four of his teammates scored at least 16.

The Pistons have won three straight for the first time in two months—after losing seven straight—to move a game over .500 in a season that was stunted by a trade that sent Billups to Denver for Allen Iverson.

Iverson missed his third straight game with a back injury.

The Nuggets suspended Anthony for the game after he refused to go to the bench when coach George Karl tried to take him out of Denver's game.

Denver has lost five of seven, letting its lead in the Northwest Division slip to a

An e-mail seeking comment was sent to Anthony's agent, Calvin Andrews.

As productive as Anthony has been since the Nuggets drafted him No. 3 overall in 2003, his behavior has often been a problem.

Nearly five years ago, he apologized to his teammates for refusing to play in the final minutes of a loss on the road against the Pistons.

The Nuggets suspended him for the first two games of this season, punishing him for getting arrested for drunken driving last spring while they were pushing for a playoff berth.

He was suspended for 15 games in the 2006-07 season for his involvement in the Nuggets' brawl with the New York Knicks when he landed a punch and ran away.

Earlier in his career, Antho-

ny's name kept showing up in the headlines for all the wrong reasons: A bar fight in New York City; a bag of marijuana found in his backpack at the airport; showing up on a bootleg DVD in Baltimore in which a man threatened to kill drug snitches.

Nets 99, Bucks 95

At Milwaukee, Brook Lopez scored 24 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and Jarvis Hayes hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer with 18 seconds left to lift New Jersey.

It was the Nets third win in the last four games after a five-game losing streak.

Vince Carter, who scored 15 points, and Devin Harris, who had 14 points and 11 assists, both had abysmal shooting efforts, combining to go 8-of-34 from the field.

New Jersey is a half-game behind Milwaukee for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Charlie Villanueva had 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Bucks, who

have lost five of their last seven.

Lakers 99, Grizzlies 89

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 31 points and Los Angeles ended a two-game skid.

The Lakers avoided what would have been their first three-game losing streak of the season, taking the lead for good just seven minutes.

Memphis, 3-24 on the road, kept it relatively close until the Lakers pulled away from a 54-51 lead early in the third quarter.

The Lakers' Pau Gasol, matched in the middle against younger brother Marc, had 13 points and eight rebounds.

Marc Gasol, 24 and four years younger than Pau, had 17 points and 14 rebounds.

Bobcats 96, Bulls 80

At Charlotte, N.C., Raymond Felton had 18 points and nine assists, Raja Bell also scored 18 points and Charlotte won its season-high fourth straight.

After winning the final three games on their West Coast trip, the Bobcats returned home and continued their late-season push to reach the playoffs for the first time, securing the season tiebreaker over the Bulls, who are also in a logjam for the final postseason berth in the Eastern Conference.

Without forwards Luol Deng (leg) and Tim Thomas (knee), Chicago fell behind early and never recovered. Tyrus Thomas had 14 points and 12 rebounds for the sloppy Bulls, who shot 39 percent.

Rockets 107, Raptors 97

At Houston, Carl Landry matched

a career high with 22 points, Luis Scola added 20 points and 16 rebounds and Houston extended its home-court winning streak to 10 games.

Yao Ming added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets, who moved a game ahead of New Orleans and Portland and 1 1/2 in front of Utah in the Western Conference standings. The Rockets play the Jazz in Salt Lake City on Wednesday.

Chris Bosh and Andrea Bargnani scored 25 points apiece and Jose Calderon matched a career high with 16 assists for the Raptors, who've lost seven of their last eight road games.

Warriors 118, Timberwolves 94

At Minneapolis, Stephen Jackson, who had been benched the past two games as part of coach Don Nelson's youth movement, had 23 points, seven rebounds and six assists to lead Golden State.

Corey Maggette added 16 points and Andris Biedrins had 10 points and 13 rebounds for the Warriors, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

Kevin Love had 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who trailed by 31 points in the first half and lost for the seventh time in a row and 15th time in their last 17 games.

Pacers 117, Kings 109

At Sacramento, Calif., Jarrett Jack scored 26 points and Troy Murphy had 23 points, 10 rebounds and six assists to lead Indiana.

The Pacers pulled within two games of Milwaukee for the eighth and final playoff berth in the Eastern Conference.

Kevin Martin scored 21 points for the Kings, who have dropped two straight and five of six.

Joe Smith returning to ex-team Cavaliers

CLEVELAND (AP)—Joe Smith is about to bounce back to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The veteran forward, traded last summer by the Cavs in the deal that brought them All-Star guard Mo Williams, agreed to terms Tuesday night on a one-year contract with Cleveland, his agent told the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"After careful consideration of his options, Joe has decided that the Cavs are the best fit," agent Dan Fegan told the paper.

Smith can not officially sign with the Cavaliers until he clears waivers on Wednesday. But that's the final procedural hurdle in a signing that has been expected since the 33-year-old Smith bought out his contract on Sunday with the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Smith averaged 6.6 points and 4.5 rebounds in 36 games for the Thunder, but his playing time had diminished and he didn't get in any of his final eight games with the club.

He wanted to join a team for a playoff push and Cleveland, where he played 27 games last season, was Smith's first choice.

The Cavs reluctantly parted with Smith in August, when they packaged him with guard Damon Jones in a three-way deal to acquire Williams from the Milwaukee Bucks. Smith came to Cleveland before the trading deadline in 2008, and the 14-year veteran provided leadership as well as consistent play during his stay.

The prospect of getting him back excited LeBron James.

"One of the best guys, one of the best teammates I've ever had," James said Monday night in Miami.

With Ben Wallace expected to miss three more weeks with a broken leg, the 6-foot-10 Smith will give the Cavaliers needed depth up front and his playoff experience will be invaluable. Smith appeared in 13 playoff games for the Cavs last season.

Nuggets' Karl says Anthony 'crossed the line'

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Carmelo Anthony's checkered reputation took another hit.

The two-time Olympian served a one-game suspension Tuesday night handed down by the Denver Nuggets because coach George Karl tried to put him on the bench and he refused.

"In my mind, that crossed the line," Karl said.

Anthony wasn't with the Nuggets when they played on the road against the Detroit Pistons.

"I saw him yesterday. I didn't see him today," Karl said Tuesday night. "I'll spend some time with him tomorrow. I think he's traveling with the team. I heard he was going to be on the plane."

Denver's next game is Thursday night at home against the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Nuggets had said they suspended Anthony for an "in-

Search ends for NFL players lost off Fla. coast



CLEARWATER, Fla.

(AP)—The Coast Guard called off the search Tuesday for two NFL players and a third man lost at sea off the Florida coast after their boat capsized during a fishing trip.

Officials said the search would end at sundown, with Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, free-agent defensive lineman Corey Smith, who played with the Detroit Lions last season, and former South Florida player William Bleakley still missing in the rough, chilly seas.

"We're extremely confident that if there are any survivors on the surface of the water that we would have found them," said Coast Guard Capt. Timothy Close, who added that searchers scoured the equivalent of 24,000 square miles over more than 60 hours.

Hopes were raised Monday when crews found a fourth man who was aboard, 24-year-old former South Florida player Nick Schuyler, who managed to stay with the boat after it overturned Saturday evening.

William Bleakley's father said he felt comfortable with the Coast Guard's decision and that his expectations lowered after only one survivor was found.

"I think they did everything that they could," Robert Bleakley said of the Coast Guard. "I think they were not to be found."

Close said searchers found a cooler and a life jacket 16 miles southeast of the boat, but no other signs of the men.

Prospects for survival became more grim throughout the day, with Cooper's father saying the Coast Guard told him privately officials were losing hope because so much time had passed and hypothermia risks were high. Coast Guard officials said publicly that they were still hopeful.

"I think the families understood that we put in a tremendous effort," Close said. "Any search and rescue case we have to stop is disappointing."

Family and friends embraced and sobbed outside the Coast Guard station shortly before the announcement. They left without talking with reporters.

"I'm sure that I'll speak of Will like

Donald Nicholson, a friend of NFL football player Marquis Cooper, talks on a cell phone at the U.S. Coast Guard station in St. Petersburg, Fla., Monday afternoon March 2, 2009.

AP

he's still with us for a long time," Robert Bleakley said later of his son. "He'll be an inspiration for me for a long time. He always has been. I told everybody, I call him my hero."

Lions running back Kevin Smith called Corey Smith "a good, quiet guy, who always put in an honest day's work."

Kevin Smith, a Florida native, said he has been fishing off the coast as far as the men were in boats smaller, the same size and larger than the 21-foot watercraft that capsized.

"The No. 1 thing when you're out there is, you have to respect the water," he said. "I know those guys had safety vests. I'm trying not to even think about it. That's a tough way to go."

The four friends left Clearwater Pass early Saturday in calm weather, but heavy winds picked up through the day and the seas got heavy, with waves of 7 feet and higher, peaking at 15 feet on Sunday. A relative alerted the Coast Guard early Sunday after the men did not return as expected. The Coast Guard said it did not receive a distress signal.

Close said some family members asked about continuing the search on their own, which he discouraged but said the Coast Guard wouldn't prevent.

"I can't emphasize this enough," Close said. "We do not want any additional search and rescue cases resulting from people who are outside their experience level."

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may be heading out Wednesday to recover the boat, which was still on the water.

Schuyler told the Coast Guard the boat was anchored when it capsized. The four friends were able to put on life vests and huddle together, but eventually became separated, he said.

Schuyler was dehydrated and showing symptoms of hypothermia, but his condition was upgraded to fair on Tuesday. Hospital officials said he didn't want to talk to the media.

The Coast Guard hadn't had more



detailed conversations with Schuyler "due to his physical and medical condition," Close said.

Cooper, who is 26 and owns the boat, was selected in the third round of the 2004 NFL draft by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers out of Washington. He played 26 games for the Bucs in his first two pro seasons, then led a nomadic NFL existence.

Cooper and Smith, 29, became friends when they were teammates at Tampa Bay. Smith signed with the Bucs as an undrafted free agent in 2002, and spent last season with Detroit before becoming a free agent. The former North Carolina State standout recorded 42 tackles (28 solo), three sacks and 10 special teams tackles in 2008, his best NFL season.

Bleakley, a 25-year-old former tight end from Crystal River, Fla., was on the USF football team in 2004 and 2005. He had one reception for 13 yards in his career, which also included some time on special teams.

Agent: Warner makes counteroffer to Arizona

PHOENIX (AP)—Kurt Warner has made a counteroffer to the Arizona Cardinals that could pave the way for his return to the team he led to the Super Bowl.

Warner's agent said he has offered a two-year deal worth \$23 million, with \$12 million guaranteed.

"We had a lot of talk today and we conveyed what it means for Kurt to stay in Arizona," agent Mark Bartelstein said Tuesday night.

The Cardinals reportedly offered a two-year, \$20 million contract with \$10 million guaranteed. Warner had sought a deal that would rank with the top five paid quarterbacks in the league: two years for some \$29 million.

Bartelstein said Warner's counteroffer is "clearly below what his market value is out there and the Cardinals know that."

Warner's counteroffer came a day after he made a highly publicized trip to San Francisco for an interview and

physical exam with the 49ers. Warner and his wife Brenda were flown from Phoenix by a private jet and taken to 49ers headquarters by limousine.

But with San Francisco expected to have a run-oriented attack, Warner seemed an unlikely fit. All along, he has made it clear he wants to stay in Arizona, where he has two of the NFL's top wide receivers in Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin.

Bartelstein sounded optimistic about the chances of reaching an agreement. He said the offer to Arizona was much less than what Warner could have gotten from San Francisco.

"If we were to do a deal with the 49ers it would be substantially more," Bartelstein said.

Cardinals general manager Rod Graves did not return a message left on his cell phone.

He has said repeatedly the team wants Warner back but that a deal would have

to fit in with the organization's other personnel plans. Warner's value undoubtedly is affected by the fact he will be 38 before next season begins.

The *Arizona Republic* said the team was preparing a counteroffer of its own Tuesday night, with the possible sticking point the amount of money guaranteed.

Warner was the heart and soul of a prolific passing offense that led Arizona to an unexpected run to the Super Bowl. The Cardinals had playoff victories over Atlanta, Carolina and Philadelphia before a thrilling 27-23 loss to Pittsburgh in Tampa. Warner completed 31 of 43 passes for 377 yards and three touchdowns against the Steelers.

In four playoff games, Warner completed 68 percent of his passes for 1,147 yards and 11 touchdowns, with three interceptions. That after he completed 67 percent of his throws in the regular season for 4,583 yards and 30 touchdowns, with 14 interceptions.

NFL BRIEFS

Giants GM: Team might welcome Plaxico Burress back

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—

Plaxico Burress could be welcomed back by the New York Giants—if the Super Bowl star can straighten out his legal problems stemming from a weapons charge and get his life back in order. "Right now he is still a Giant and if things work out and he's on board with what we want coming back, we'd love to have him back," general manager Jerry Reese says said Tuesday. Burress' future is cloudy because he faces an illegal weapons possession charge relating to a self-inflicted gunshot wound at a New York City nightclub in late November. He faces a mandatory 3 1/2 years in prison if convicted. Barring a plea deal, the case is scheduled to return to court at the end of the month.

The 31-year-old, who signed a five-year, \$35 million contract in September, also faces a possible suspension by the NFL for violating its personal conduct policy. Burress, who has been living in New Jersey and Florida in recent months according to teammate Brandon Jacobs, has not commented publicly on his future with the Giants since the shooting. His agent, Drew Rosenhaus, has refused to respond to at least a two dozen telephone call by The Associated Press seeking comment during that period.

Broncos insist QB Jay Cutler won't be traded

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The Denver Broncos don't want to talk to anyone about Jay Cutler except for the quarterback himself. The Broncos insisted Tuesday their Pro Bowl quarterback isn't on the trading block and said new coach Josh McDaniels and his star player are scheduled to meet next week to try to patch up their strained relationship. Cutler was angered during the weekend when his name came up in

talks involving a three-way trade that would have sent him to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and landed Matt Cassel in Denver. Instead, the Patriots traded Cassel to Kansas City. McDaniels was the offensive coordinator last year in New England, where he tutored Cassel, a career backup who led the Patriots to an 11-5 season after Tom Brady was injured in the opener. Cutler, who is preparing to learn the intricate Patriots-style offense after working in the West Coast system his first three years in the NFL, was miffed that McDaniels even entertained the notion of dealing him to another team. He also said he thought he was still going to get traded. "The Denver Broncos are not trading Jay Cutler. Period," team spokesman Patrick Smyth said emphatically Tuesday.

Bills, CB Florence agree to terms

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—

The Buffalo Bills agreed to terms with veteran free agent cornerback Drayton Florence late Tuesday night. Terms of the deal were not immediately available. The 28-year-old Florence will provide the secondary with some depth as he becomes the fifth cornerback on the team's roster. Buffalo will head into the 2009 season with Terrence McGee and 2008 first-round pick (11th overall) Leodis McKelvin as the starters, with Florence in the mix to occupy the nickel role. The move likely means Buffalo will not attempt to re-sign its own free agent cornerback, Jabari Greer. Florence was cut by Jacksonville last month after signing a lucrative six-year, \$36 million deal—with about \$12 million guaranteed—with the Jaguars in 2008. He was scheduled to make a base salary of \$1.9 million with a \$2.5 million roster bonus this year. He spent most of this past season playing in nickel and dime situations.

D'9ers edge Ol'Aces in Big League

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



San Roque D'9ers sustained its defensive stance in the stretch

to score a 2-1 win over Ol'Aces in the Big League Division Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The win was D'9ers second in three starts as they dealt Ol'Aces its first defeat in two games.

D'9ers opened their title campaign with a 8-7 decision against Team Aztecs last Feb. 21, but lost to defending champion Tanapag Falcons, 1-4, last Feb. 26.

Ol'Aces failed to duplicate their 6-5 victory over IT&E last Feb. 19.

Outfielder Anthony Castro scored the D'9ers first run in the bottom of the third inning on a single by catcher Elliot Tenorio, while Simeon Nepaial scored for Ol'Aces via passed ball to equalize the score at 1-1.

Then shortstop David Cama-



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
The San Roque D'9ers celebrate their 2-1 win over Ol'Aces on Tuesday night in the Big League division.

cho tripled in the sixth on the way to scoring the decisive run on a passed ball.

The lone game today will be between the second-running Hustlers and Team Aztecs (1-1), who are currently in a three-way logjam with Ol'Aces and Tanapag Falcons.

The Hustlers remained the only unbeaten team in the Big League Division following their 3-1 victory over the defending champion Falcons last Feb. 17.

In the Juniors Division, the Patriots posted back-to-back wins on Sunday night by overpowering defending champion

Kagman Lion Heart, 13-4.

Jared Sablan scored three runs, Franklin Sablan, Henry Rabauliman, Alan Aguon, and Carlos Rabauliman made two each, while Brian Camacho and Tyler Kaipat added one each.

The Patriots, who just graduated from the Major Division after winning the title three years in a row, widened their lead to 4-0, while Lion Heart absorbed their second defeat in four games.

Lion Heart lost to the Red Sox, 5-7, last Feb. 21 and they still have to play Ol'Aces for their postponed game that ended at 5-5 during the opening day of the season last Feb. 15.

The Patriots defeated the Red Sox, 13-4, last Feb. 16, then feasted on the D'9ers, 18-5, last Feb. 21. They then beat the Fielders, 11-1, last Feb. 22.

They will meet Ol'Aces on March 7 to complete their first round assignment.

from March 7 to 8 at the Pacific Islands Club, Dalhausser's next stop will be the AVP championships in Panama City, Florida.

The U.S. pros, that also included returnee Jenelle Koester, will conduct the kids' beach volleyball clinic free of charge today at the PIC courts.

They will also play in an exhibition game tomorrow against pros from Japan and Korea, serving as the side events for the tournament proper on Saturday and Sunday.

STUDENTS

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asked what other sports they like most and who is the best player among them.

Dalhausser said that the most difficult question was how much money they make by playing beach volleyball. All three were silent.

Luckily for them, Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association former president

Jon Cramer came to their rescue. He told the students that pro beach volleyball players have sponsorships that spend for their training and competition fees, unlike professional football, basketball, soccer, and other big name sports stars who get big contracts.

"They really had a good time. We also need a good time in sharing our ideas," said Dalhausser, who at 6'9" is easily the tallest among the three.

This year marks the fourth

time Dalhausser will be competing in the Marianas Cup.

"I always want to come back to Saipan mainly because of Jon Cramer, who is my good friend," said the 29-year-old behemoth.

Dalhausser will start training next year for another chance to be included in the U.S. national team for the 2012 London Olympics.

"It's too early yet to plan for that," he said.

After the Marianas Cup set

FREDDIE

From Page 28

who tallied 178 points in eight games for an average of 22.25 points per match.

Two players from the CNMI Nationals, IT&E, Runnin' Rebels, and Quichocho Law Office, and one from Diamond Auto Fixers complete the Top 10.

Pete Iguel is currently in third place, as he collected 153 points in seven games for an average of 21.87 points per game. Coming in at fourth is IT&E's Kae Bernardo with a total 134 points (16.75 ppg), followed by Diamond's Elmer Esdreton with

127 (15.87 ppg), Quichocho's Sonny Lerio with 126 (15.75), the Runnin' Rebels' Jesus Iguel with 125 (15.62) and Jose Tumaquip with 111 (13.87), IT&E's Jun Estolas with 103 (12.87), and the CNMI Nationals' Marvin Rabauliman with 100 (12.5).

In the rebounds department, another Ol'Aces player—Gabriel White—is leading the race with 69 rebounds for an average of 8.62 boards per match.

Sylvan Teregeyo is in second place with 63, followed by Docomo's Christopher Paul (57), Bernardo (56), Docomo's Kelvin Fitial (56), Quichocho's Larry Palero (52), the Runnin'

Rebels' Ben Lisua (52) and Robert Coldeen, Jr. (52), the Ol'Aces Jack Lizama (50), and Quichocho's Leo Itaas (44).

Brothers Joemary and Jose Tumaquip are lording it over in the steals and assists departments, respectively.

Joemary, who plays for the CNMI Nationals, has recorded 33 steals, leading the Runnin' Rebels Denar Norita by one.

Rounding out the Top 10 are Jesus Iguel (31), Itaas (27), Esdreton (27), Pete Iguel (22), Gabriel White (21), Lerio (20), Jose Tumaquip (20), and the CNMI Nationals' Jayvan Tarkong (19).

Jose has collected 43 assists,

10 more than Estolas' 33. Joemary and Cadagat have tallied 32 apiece, while IT&E's Wowie Abuel has posted 31 to complete the Top 5.

Making it to the Top 10 are Esdreton (30), the Ol'Aces' Elias Rangamar (25), Docomo's Dave Palacios (25), Docomo's Joseph Villacrusis (25), and Gabriel White (22).

The Hoopaholics' Mel Manibusan leads the league in shot-blocks with nine, followed by Coldeen (8), Norita (8), Lisua (7), Quichocho's Edmark Mendoza (6), Docomo's James Villacrusis (6), Jesus Iguel (6), Tarkong (5), Lizama (5), and Quichocho's Bart Demapan (5).

Court 1 Second Game

MCS 32 – Lebría 10, V. Bartolo 8, Borja 8, Demapan 2, C. Bartolo 2, Taylor 2.

SCS 18 – Lu 6, Fajardo 5, Reyes 4, Johnson 2, Oh 1

Scores by quarters: 8-7, 22-13, 28-15, 32-18

Court 2

GCA 32 – O'Connor 6, Deluna 6, Cristobal 4, Molina 4, Muna 4, Mamaril 2, Dimaano 2, Velasco 2, Schweger 2.

SDA 11 – Richards 6, Mendiola 2, Kim 2, D. Taylor 1, S. Taylor 0, Jin 0. Scores by quarters: 12-1, 20-1, 24-1, 32-11.

Today's kids clinic to kick off Marianas Cup

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Organizers are inviting kids of all ages to join the special

beach volleyball clinic today, March 5, at the Pacific Islands Club.

The free clinic is set from 3pm to 5pm and will be conducted by professional players led by Olympic gold medal winner Phil Dalhausser of the United States. The event kicks off the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival.

There will also be exhibition matches on Friday, March 6, between teams from the U.S., Japan, and Korea, which will be open to the public free of charge.

The tournament proper begins on Saturday, March 7, with men's open and women's open doubles at the PIC sand courts. Continuation of games as well as the championship game will be on Sunday, March 8.

Also on Sunday, the kids' tournament will be held to spice up the main event.

Professional players will personally supervise the conduct of the kids' tourney, which is open for 10- to 15-years-old with teams of four players and at least one girl.

Russ Quinn, one of the organizers, said "these experiences for the kids could be a life-changing and extremely inspiring for them and their parents as well."

Quinn said they are aiming to draw some 500 people to watch the exhibition matches.

"It will be rocking at PIC, there will be fantastic games (men's and women's), live music, great drink specials, and hopefully a great sunset," Quinn said.

The cost for the kids' tournament is \$5 per kid and includes waterpark passes and other goodies.

"This is a great deal! We are also looking for individuals that will sponsor kids that cannot afford this," he said.

OTAKE

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wind Marine Sports. The list included Kazuo Oura, Shinya Anami, Pacific Islands Club's Sergei Bargamotos, Naohiro Oota, 12-year-old Kensuke Kaku, Hiroshi Tajima, and Yoshiaki Udagawa.

Masao Hirota ruled the masters division and the fun race. He netted 13.9 points in nine heats to beat eight other participants.

Joining Hirota in the Top 3 in the masters division were Hideo Yamazaki (22.4), and Mamoru Mouri (27.4). Others who competed in the masters were Yutaka Kuboto, Kenji Hayakawa, Nobru Iisuka, Ryo Okawa, Saburo

Aoki, and Shigeru Tomita.

In the fun race, completing the Top 3 were Wada and Mouri. Six others joined the side event. They were Mouri, Oura, Udagawa, Tonegawa, Otake, Oota, and Iizuka.

In the women's division, Mayuki Ikeda dominated Yasuko Hayakawa with the former scoring 11.9 points against the latter's 31.

The beginners division also had two participants in Saeko Satou and Kouji Kimura with the former finishing on top after recording 7.6 points. Kouji Kimura nailed 16.7 points.

Scoring was based on how fast participants finished the race, which had windsurfers circling six buoys on the Micro Beach waters.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	47	14	.770	-
Philadelphia	29	30	.492	17
New Jersey	27	33	.450	19 1/2
New York	24	35	.407	22
Toronto	23	39	.371	24 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	47	12	.797	-
Detroit	30	29	.508	17
Milwaukee	29	34	.460	20
Chicago	27	34	.443	21
Indiana	27	36	.429	22
Southwest Division				
Orlando	44	16	.733	-
Atlanta	34	26	.567	10
Miami	31	28	.525	12 1/2
Charlotte	26	35	.426	18 1/2
Washington	14	46	.233	30
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	40	19	.678	-
Houston	39	22	.639	2
New Orleans	37	22	.627	3
Dallas	36	24	.600	4 1/2
Memphis	15	44	.254	25
Northwest Division				
Denver	39	22	.639	-
Portland	37	22	.627	1
Utah	37	23	.617	1 1/2
Minnesota	18	42	.300	20 1/2
Oklahoma City	15	45	.250	23 1/2
Pacific Division				
LA Lakers	49	12	.803	-
Phoenix	34	26	.567	14 1/2
Golden State	21	39	.350	27 1/2
LA Clippers	15	46	.246	34
Sacramento	13	49	.210	36 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Orlando 111, Suns 99				
Detroit 100, Denver 95				
New Jersey 99, Milwaukee 95				
LA Lakers 99, Memphis 89				
Charlotte 96, Chicago 80				
Houston 107, Toronto 97				
Golden State 118, Minnesota 94				
Indiana 117, Sacramento 109				

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LADY

From Page 28

tist, while the Lady Knights squeaked past Saipan Community School, 32-18, before screaming fans at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Eagles and the Knights will meet for the title today following the battle for third place between SDA and the SCS Tsunamis.

Undeclared in 10 straight games, GCA will be highly favored against Mt. Carmel, having won all three of their meet-

ings in the regular season.

The Lady Eagles swept their regular season games, 9-0, while the Lady Knights finished with a 6-3 win-loss card.

Kallie O'Connor and Chezka De Luna led the Lady Eagles with six points each, while Julie Muna, Christine Molina, and Crista Cristobal had four apiece. Angeline Velasco, Angela Mamaril, Abby Dimaano, and Anastasia Schweger added two each.

GCA limited SDA to a single point after three quarters and it was just a matter of time for the Lady Eagles to take the game

away with a 24-1 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Danessa Taylor was the lone SDA player to score from the stripe late in the first quarter.

The team managed to squeeze 10 points in the fourth, six from Jacinia Richards, two each from Erin Belle Mendiola and Dana Kim.

SDA absorbed its 10th defeat in as many games.

The Knights stretched a 22-13 halftime lead with a 28-15 count at the end of the third quarter and limited the Tsunamis on the way to an easy win. SCS was 3-6 in the regular season.

MISO Basketball League Finals

Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROY



The Lady Ayuyus pose with their championship trophy after beating Marianas High School in the girls varsity finals of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League last week at the MHS Gymnasium.



MHS supporters pose for the *Saipan Tribune* during a the halftime break in the Dolphins-Ayuyus finals showdown.



The Ayuyus' Jesus Iguel, left, eludes the defense of the Dolphins' Wes Tomokane.



The Lady Ayuyus' Nikita Hofschneider, left, dribbles against the Lady Dolphins' Rachel Rangamar.



The Lady Ayuyus' Agatha Repeki pulls up for shot in a fastbreak play.



An Ayuyus fan shows his support to the team.



The Dolphins' Noel Soria takes his turn in the ceremonial cutting of the net.



Ryan Lisua, right, goes for a running jumper against the Dolphins' Ron Catap.



The Dolphins' Wes Tomokane, left, and the Ayuyus' Jonathan Norita battle for the ball.



The Dolphins' Clayton Kenty, right, pulls up for a jumper against the Ayuyus' Jimmy Brel.



D'9ers edge Ol'Aces in Big League

San Roque D'9ers sustained its defensive stance in the stretch to score a 2-1 win over Ol'Aces

in the Big League Division Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Howard scores 21 as Magic beat Suns

Dwight Howard had 21 points and eight rebounds in a bruising battle with Shaquille O'Neal, and the Orlando Magic beat the Phoenix Suns 111-99 on Tuesday night.

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28 THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Students meet Dalhausser and company

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Saipan students had the opportunity to interact with professional beach volleyball players from the United States who arrived the other day for the 17th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Festival during a visit to three different schools yesterday.

U.S. pros Jennifer Snyder, Paul Baxter, and Phil Dalhausser smiled and laughed at the easiest and most difficult questions thrown them by kids half or even a quarter of their age during visits to Saipan International, Ladera International School, and Saipan Community School.

The most basic information students commonly asked was about Dalhausser's Olympic experience.

He said the kids were very enthusiastic about his gold medal performance in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. "They usually asked how tall we are," Dalhausser quipped after going through a long line of Saipan Community students who patiently waited their turn during the autograph signing session.

Students also wanted to know what kind of food they eat to keep their body stronger. The kids also



RELATED NEWS

Today's kids clinic to kick off Marianas Cup.

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U.S. professional beach volleyball players, from left, Jennifer Snyder, Paul Baxter, and Beijing Olympic gold medalist Phil Dalhausser sign autographs for students of Saipan Community School during a visit yesterday afternoon.

Otake tops Micronesian Open



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the men's open division of the 27th Micronesian Open Windsurfing Cup sail on the shores of Micro Beach Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

More than 30 participated in the 27th Micronesian Open Windsurfing Cup held over the weekend on the shores of Micro Beach.

Windsurfers, who mostly came from Japan, were divided into four divisions, namely the men's open, masters, women's open, and beginners. A fun race featuring selected participants from the four divisions was added into the two-day event.

Hideaki Otake bested 18 other participants in the men's open division after col-

lecting 8.9 points in nine heats.

Otake received a wooden plaque and a windsurfing board during the awards ceremony held Sunday night at Kili Café at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Also receiving wooden plaques were runner-up Masataka Hattatori and third placer Daisuke Inaba.

Masataka earned 10.2 points and besides the wooden plaque, he also took home a set of windsurfing sails. Inaba settled for third and a harness after scoring 16.8 points.

The Top 10 finishers in the men's open also received prizes from tournament organizer Sea-

See OTAKE on Page 26

Freddie leads scoring in Budweiser caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Freddie Pelisamen is living up to expectations as one of CNMI basketball's most potent offensive threats, as the Ol'Aces gunner leads the scoring race in the ongoing 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League.

The former member of the CNMI National Team that competed in the 2006 Micronesian Games here is the lone player in the Budweiser league to pile up more than 200 points so far. In

eight games, Pelisamen totaled 280 points for an eye-popping average of 35 point per game.

This does not include his season-high of 44 points posted in the Ol'Aces' 102-94 win over IT&E Monday night.

In second place is Quichocho Law Office's Bonbon Cadagat,

See FREDDIE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ol'Aces' Freddie Pelisamen goes up for a layup during their game against IT&E in the Budweiser caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Lady Eagles, Knights advance to finals



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The Lady Eagles and coach John Manglona, right, celebrate their semis win against SDA, 32-11, Tuesday in the 2009 COP-SSA basketball league at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



Grace Christian Academy and Mt. Carmel School ousted their respective opponents in the semifinals last Tuesday to arrange a championship duel in the girls division of the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association basketball league.

The GCA Lady Eagles coasted to an easy 32-11 win over Seventh Day Adven-

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